

Col. ROBERT WATKINS & Elizabeth WALTON and their children (only)

First Generation

1. **Col. ROBERT WATKINS** * was born 1763/1764 in Cumberland County, Virginia. He died¹ 24 Aug 1805 in at Bath, Near Augusta, in Georgia and was buried in Rosney Plantation, GA.

Married his cousin, Elizabeth Walton, daughter of John Walton.

"Historical Collections of the Georgia D.A.R." page 339

"ROBERT WATKINS, who married his cousin Elizabeth WALTON, resided at Rosney, Richmond Co., GA. Their son THOMAS married ELIZABETH ARRINGTON, who was a niece of Mrs. Edward Rowell. Martha WATKINS, daughter of THOMAS and Elizabeth Arrington married Charles DELAIGLE of Richmond Co., GA."

"Descendants of William Claiborne" page 300

"[Robert Watkins] moved to Augusta, GA after his marriage. On 19 June 1789 he was commissioned captain of a troop or horse in Richmond Co., GA militia. On 19 Nov. 1791 Robert Watkins of Rosney, attorney at law, heir at law by intermarriage with Elizabeth Martha Walton, only surviving issue of the honorable John Walton, Esquire, of New Savannah, who was assignee, representative and heir at law of Leonard Claiborne, late of the state of Virginia, attorney at law, deceased, gave a power of attorney to Thomas Woodlief of Virginia to recover land in Virginia. His plantation, "Rosney", was located on the Savannah River where Bush Field, the Augusta, GA airport is now located. He represented Richmond County in the Georgia House of Representatives, 1796-98, 1799, 1801-04.

"Issue: (WATKINS), Thomas, died 7 March 1824. He married 22 Feb 1809 in Richmond Co., GA, Eliza. Henry Arrington, daughter of Henry and Mary (Robertson) (note: should be Robison) Bugg Arrington. He inherited "Rosney" but became financially involved, and 2,000 acres, saw and grist mills, thirty-three slaves and the manor house were sold to pay thirty-eight separate judgments against him. Subsequently, however, the plantation was repurchased for \$3000 on 24 July 1817 and put in the names of his children: Mary E. M., Robert A., Isaac T., and Walker W. WATKINS."

NOTE about the below quoted text: I am not sure how to reconcile the fact that Robert would have been only about 10 years old when this quote claims he was "commissioned ensign in 1776. There is ample evidence, however, that he became a captain of a troop of horse by 1789 (at the age of 23.); and the accounts of him from that point forward are most definitely accurate." [Virginia S. Mylius]

"History of the Georgia Militia, 1783-1861" Volume 3, page 248

"Tradition has it that Watkinsville was named for ROBERT WATKINS (1766-1805), son of Thomas Watkins and his wife Sally (Walton) Watkins of Powhatan, Virginia. Robert Watkins was commissioned ensign in the 5th Regiment Virginia Continental Line on 5 February 1776 and was promoted to lieutenant in the 5th Virginia later that same year. However, he resigned his commission on 12 March 1778. He moved to Savannah, later to Richmond County, Georgia, after the Revolution. He was admitted to the practice of law there. In 1789 he became captain of the Troop of Horse in the Richmond County Regiment. In 1797 Watkins was promoted to Lieutenant colonel commanding the Richmond County Regiment. As a member of the Georgia Legislature he voted in favor of the Yazoo Acts. In 1800 he and his brother George published their "Digest of the Laws of Georgia", the first compilation of Georgia laws. Robert Watkins fought a series of duels with James Jackson as a result of this compilation's inclusion of the Yazoo Acts as well as the Rescinding Act. The Watkins' argued that both the "obnoxious" acts and the repealing statute were passed by the General Assembly so should be included. General Jackson, however, argued that the Yazoo Acts had usurped authority that did not belong to the General Assembly and refused to draw the warrants on the treasury to pay the editors for

compiling the "Digest". After one such fight between Watkins and Jackson, the former with "great civility" offered his carriage to carry the wounded Jackson home, but the latter refused the offer. Watkins served in the Georgia House of Representatives from Richmond County, 1796-1799, 1801-1804. He was, therefore, a member of the Session which created Clarke County with its seat at Watkinsville. Watkins died at Bath, Richmond County, on 24 August, 1805. He was buried in the family cemetery on his plantation Rosney in Richmond County. While living in Savannah, Watkins married his first cousin ELIZABETH MARTHA WALTON, the only daughter of the Hon. John WALTON, on 22 June 1785. His wife died at the age of 37 on 3 May 1809 at Rosney. Francis B. Heitman, "Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During The War Of The Revolution, April, 1775, to December, 1783" (Washington, DC 1914), 575; account of the duel between Watkins and James Jackson in "His Last Duel" in SMN, 22 April 1885 (from "Field of Honor"); second account of the Watkins-Jackson duel in "Four Famous Georgia Duels Fought in Closing Years of Eighteenth and Beginning of Nineteenth Centuries" in SMN, 14 February 1915 (Frank Willing Leach in the "Philadelphia North American"); Grace Gillam Davidson, comp, "Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters NSDAR, II (Athens, GA, 1929), 338-339; Charles Stephen Gurr et al, eds, "Dictionary of Georgia Biography, II" (Athens, GA 1983), 1040-1041.

ROBERT WATKINS and the COTTON GIN:

"Story of Augusta" by Edward J. Cashin, 1980. page 42

"The most famous manufacturer in Augusta was the merchant William Longstreet. By 1788 he and Isaac Briggs obtained a patent for exclusive use of their steam engine. Four years later he had a working model of the machine. It could be used for operating saw mills, grist mills or even for propelling a boat. It ran without wheels, cogs or cranks, and was capable of 45 stokes per minute. With a few weeks of tinkering, his little engine could do 155 strokes per minute. If only he could figure a use for it!"....." When he heard about Eli Whitney's cotton gin, Longstreet adapted his engine to a gin of his own design and claimed that it was superior to Whitney's. To vouch for his gin, he appointed a blue ribbon committee consisting of GEORGE WALTON, John Course, ROBERT WATKINS, Thomas Cumming and John Catlett. ROBERT WATKINS, ruthlessly honest, said Longstreet's was no better than other gins. Longstreet's real interest was to put his engine on the water."....."After years of effort, the inventor succeeded in actually propelling a boat on the river [in 1808]."

In the Augusta "Herald" of Nov. 10, 1808, there was the following article:

"We are happy to announce that Mr. Longstreet's experiments with his newly invented steamboat have answered his most sanguine expectations...The different spectators have been extremely gratified by the different essays he has made, and no doubt remains in their minds but his labors will be crowned with success."

An Atlanta newspaper article continues:

"There are many of our older citizens who are positive that as early as 1806 Mr. Longstreet made a trial trip with his invention on the Savannah River' but should Mr. Fulton's trip on the Clermont be the first successful trip made by steam navigation, to Mr. Longstreet should be given the honor of the invention. For he had secured a patent on his engine, presumably designed for steam navigation, in 1788, two years before Mr. Hudson went to Europe to perfect his education...Mr. Longstreet never once relinquished his work towards perfecting the steamboat until his recorded success in 1808."

William Longstreet was a member of the Georgia Legislature in 1794-95 and the following account by Claude G. Bowers in his "Jefferson in Power", p.299, regarding the Yazoo land act, is apropos:

"In the winter of 1794-5, under the leadership of William Longstreet, a member of the Georgia Legislature, was engineered through that body by blatant criminal methods the sale to four land speculations companies of most of what is now the states of Alabama and Mississippi. It was accomplished by the most brazen and defiant bribery, in the open. The little town of Augusta was crowded with speculators wishing to be in at the kill; and not the least of them was James Wilson, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court having on his person \$25,000 in bank bills.

This notorious Yazoo land scandal finally landed in the United States Supreme Court in "Fletcher vs. Peck", and the Court held that the original sale was valid on the ground that the U.S. Constitution forbids a state to impair the obligation of a contract, which the succeeding Georgia Legislature attempted to do by repealing the act of sale of 1794-95. The deal included about 35,000,000 in land script to satisfy the claimants."

(Note: William Longstreet was the father of the eminent Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, president of the University of Mississippi, of Emory University, and of South Carolina College and also a writer of note, being the author of "Georgia Scenes". He was the grandfather of General James Longstreet, Lee's right-hand man in Virginia. So, in three generations of one Georgia family we have the scientist and inventor, the educator and man of letters, and last, the eminent Southern General in Lee's army.)

Augusta Chronicle, July 16, 1796

"MACHINE FOR CLEANING COTTON BY ROLLERS.

"The subscriber begs leave to inform the cotton planters of Georgia and South Carolina, that he has constructed a machine for cleaning cotton by rollers, which he will lay before the public, in the following manner:

"Six _____ or shares will be allowed for each county in this state and South Carolina, at 60 dollars per share; as many persons as _____ may be concerned in a share, and the purchasers shall have the privilege of making as many as they think proper; but all the machines belonging to a share, may be kept in one place only, and within the limits of the county for which the share is taken. After the first of September a model of this machine may be seen at Petersburg, and after the 12th of the same month, at Augusta. Three or four disinterested persons of respectability will be appointed, at both places, to view the operation of the machine, and if they adjudge it competent for cleaning cotton in the most expeditious manner without injuring the staple, the purchasers must pay the money before they can see it.

"This machine is easily constructed; any persons knowing how to use common carpenter's tools, is capable of doing the wood work, and almost any smith can, by having patterns, make the iron work with ease-- the whole expense of making one is very trifling; two or three persons are sufficient for attending one of any size. ROBERT WATKINS "

Friday 30 December 1796: Papers of George Washington: Robert Watkins of State of GA for improvement in ginning cotton

"Story of Augusta" by Edward J. Cashin, 1980. page 44

Regarding George Walton, Robert Watkins, and Thomas Watkins. [see George Walton for complete text from this page]:

"Even before 1788 when he [George Walton] announced that he was officially establishing residence in Augusta, WALTON stayed with his nephew, ROBERT WATKINS at ROSNY, near New Savannah. In January, 1788, WALTON and WATKINS were two of those cited by the road commissioners for not putting slaves to work on the public road from Augusta to Sprit Creek. When he was chosen governor under the new Constitution, he must have decided that he needed a place of his own. By August of that year the "Governor's Plantation" is described as lying above Call's Warehouse in Springfield. WALTON must have rented the property which he called 'Meadow Garden' and in order to keep it in the family he arranged for his nephew THOMAS WATKINS to buy the estate and hold it for George Walton, Jr. This transaction occurred in 1791."

Subsequent to CPT Robert WATKINS (1789) the following officers commanded the Richmond County Troop of Horse over the next few years: CPT Reuben Coleman (1793) CPT William Dearmond (1798), and CPT Samuel Bugg (commissioned on 1 October 1799).

Georgia Tax Index, 1789-99

"Index to Headrights & Bounty Grants of GA 1756-1909" (1970)

WATKINS, ROBERT RICHMOND 1795 BUGG 17
WATKINS, ROBERT RICHMOND 1797 STILES 25

Augusta Chronicle, October 11, 1794:

Richmond County:
Senator: Robert WALTON, Esq.
Representatives: Robert WATKINS and William LONGSTREET, Esqrs.

WATKINS, ROBERT, Richmond county; grant book YYYY; page 278-282; acres granted 5,000; year of grant: 1796

Augusta Chronicle, May 25, 1793 " To His Excellency, the Governor:

"SIR, Presuming that not only the letter, but the spirit and genius of our militia law contemplate the people at large, the source of military promotion, I have presented myself to this county as a candidate for the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant.

In doing this, besides being urged by my own inclination, I can venture to flatter myself, I am backed by the voice of large majority of the people, and consequently, according the most rational calculation, should be the choice of their Captains and Subalterns under the new arrangement of the militia of the county - I must beg leave to contend that no field officers until such arrangement has taken place, without the most burdensome injustice to the candidates, to those officers who will be put under field officers partially appointed, and to the people in general. "Rights are solemn things," and thus situated, your Excellency will pardon the liberty I take in behalf of myself and those officers and men who feel themselves in danger of in being injured by a partial and illegal election, held at Mr. Vollandton's tavern, on the 23rd instant, to address your Excellency on the subject, and lay before you such proofs in support of the grounds of objection to that mock election, as the shortness of the time would permit my procuring, and which, with due difference, I must conceive and are quite sufficient to impress your Excellency with the justice of our application, and to pave the way for rendering that election a nullity.

"While I do not pretend to criminate, or even censure the officers who presided at the election, for in justice to them I fully believe any error in conducting it must have arisen from want of power in them to do their duty under the law, your Excellency will yet find by the statement in nature of protest, signed by them, the orders directed to them and certificate accompanying their return, that they themselves had but eight days notice of the intended election, and that they did not pretend to communicate the same either to the public, to the candidates, or their fellow officers, that the election was before the company districts were defined and officered; and therefore premature, that some of the officers were absent, and that the time of holding it was not, and could not be duly notified by them - and that Captain Parks and his officers commanding the Light Infantry, a constituent part of the battalion had no voice in those who were to command the.

With due respect, I have the Honor to be, Your Excellency's most Obedient Servant, ROBERT WATKINS, LABAN PARKS, on behalf of himself and his officers.

Augusta Chronicle - October 12, 1793

"The following Returns of the General Election for Members of the House of Representatives and County Officers, held on Monday Last, are come to hand:

RICHMOND: Representatives, Robert WATKINS, and Samuel JACKS, Esqrs.; Sheriff: James RICHARDS, Esq.; Clerk of the Superior Court: Thomas WATKINS, Esq.; Clerk of the Inferior Court: Philip CLAYTON, Esq.; Register of Probate: John MEAD, Esq.; County Surveyor: James BEALE, Esq.; Coroner: Abimelech HAWKINS, Esq.

COLUMBIA: Representatives: James SIMS, and James McNEIL, Esqrs.; Sheriff: James HAMILTON, Esq.; Clerk of the Superior and Inferior Courts: Peter CRAWFORD, Esq.; County Surveyor: John WALTON, Esq.

WILKES: Representatives: Joel EARLY, George Mathews, Richard Worsham and Arthur FORD, Esqrs.; Clerk of the Superior Court: Benjamin CATCHINGS, Esq.; County Surveyor: Mathew TALBOT, Esq.; Sheriff: Nathaniel COATS, Esq.; Register of Probates: David TERRELL, Esq.

YAZOO LAND ACT:

The year 1795 was marked by the passage of the YAZOO LAND ACT. In 1789, the Virginia Yazoo Company (headed by Patrick Henry), the Tennessee Company and the Carolina Company applied for land grants from the state of Georgia. The first Yazoo Land Act becomes law granting 5,000,000 acres of vacant land to three companies April 28, 1790. (This included land from Georgia to the Mississippi River, in what becomes Alabama and Mississippi; The states of Mississippi and Alabama and were admitted to the Union in 1817 and 1819 respectively). When passed in 1795, act granted or gave to four land speculating companies 50,000,000 acres of land in its western territories for 1 cent per acre (\$500,000).

President Washington expressed his disapproval of the actions of Patrick Henry and others in the First Yazoo Act. In December 1794, several men threatened the governor of Georgia to make it unpleasant for him if he does not sign the Yazoo Act. Governor Mathews does not listen, but returns the Yazoo Act to the state legislature questioning the amount of money the state is to receive and encouraging more participation of Georgia citizens. On January 7, 1795, Governor George Mathews signs into law a bill that agrees to sell almost 40 million acres to speculators - the starting the Yazoo Land Fraud. This corrupt deal led to the downfall of many popular politicians of the day. February 23, 1795 The U. S. Congress denounces the Yazoo Land Act. In January, 1796, President George Washington, speaking about the Yazoo Land Act states "...These acts embrace an object of such magnitude and in their consequences may so deeply affect the peace and welfare of the United States..." In January, 1796, Responding to public pressure, almost all legislators who profited from the Yazoo Land Act are removed from office. U.S. Senator James Jackson, now a member of the state legislature, convenes the so-called "Reform Legislature" In February, 1796, Gov. Irwin signs a bill rescinding the Yazoo Land Act.

The state refunded the money paid for the land, but some of the land had been resold to people who refused the money, preferring the land instead. The state did not recognize the claims and the matter ended up in court. The United States accepted the transfer of the Yazoo Land Fraud claims along with the cession of Georgia's western claims in 1802. In 1810 the U.S Supreme Court struck down the reform act as unconstitutional (Fletcher vs. Peck), ruling the state had infringed on a valid contract.

It will take 6 years and a landmark Supreme Court ruling for the state to settle claims resulting from this legislation. Those individuals who bought land under the act argue that they bought the lands in good faith, and had right to their property. In 1798, U. S. Congress authorized three commissioners to negotiate with Georgia for the cession of all or part of the lands encompassed by the Yazoo Land Act of 1795. In 1802, Georgia cedes the land involved in the Yazoo Land Fraud (and the associated legal problems) to the United States. In exchange the state receives 1.25 million dollars and the promise of removal of the Cherokee Indians from the present-day boundaries of the state; (this will lead to the "Trail of Tears"). President Thomas Jefferson announces the cession of Yazoo Act lands to the U. S. government. In 1810, Chief Justice John Marshall in Fletcher vs. Peck renders Peck's (an individual who bought land) title to land purchased during the Yazoo Land Fraud as valid. Settlement for Yazoo Land Fraud claims is complete by 1818, with the government spending almost 4.3 million dollars to pay the claimants.

ROBERT WATKINS PUBLIC ARGUMENT WITH HENRY OSBORNE:

Augusta Chronicle, Feb 18, 1795 Robert Watkins responds to "H. Osborne"

Note: According to Henry Osborne's Congressional Biography, he was born in 1751 in Ireland, immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1779. He became a judge there, but was removed from office for being a bigamist. Removed to Camden Co, GA and held various state offices, until he was convicted by the Georgia senate in December 1791 of election fraud in the election of Anthony Wayne to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Published in the Augusta Chronicle February 28, 1795, were the records of impeachment and conviction of Henry Osborne for election tampering. As Robert said: "This man, doomed to perpetual infamy by the just sentence of the laws of his country, is beneath notice. Yet this was the same Mr. Osborne that Edward Telfair, Esq. was so anxious to get interested in the land companies. When Mr. Telfair denies it, it will then be time enough for me to prove the fact, which I am fortunate enough to have in my power to do, by gentlemen of well known respectability.

"Should this man, however, be prompted to attack me in the high way like an assassin, I shall take care to be prepared, and end his wicked career as he has long since deserved; and I have no doubt but my country would do me the justice to decide, that he had brought it upon himself - Four to one was sufficient odds. ROBERT WATKINS, Augusta, Feb 6,

1795."

FURTHER PUBLISHED REMARKS OF ROBERT WATKINS about Henry Osborne:

"I thank my God that the tongue of a perjured villain CANNOT slander.

"The following authentic documents without further trouble prove Henry Osborne to be a perjured villain, a dishonor to the human race, and worthy only of the contempt of mankind. (published accounts of Henry Osborne's impeachment and conviction)

"These documents will be an endless and sufficient fire upon HIS back.-----And the Printers are requested to continue publishing them for the information of the people in general, and of the members of the convention in particular, as the final and standing answer until the desperate monster shall grow sick of ink shed, or bring his betters forward, who, I pledge myself, shall meet no difficulty in being noticed.

"I boast of having, at two sessions of the legislature, voted AGAINST the wretch's reinstatement.

ROBERT WATKINS"

"WILKES COURTS, FEB 18, 1795."

PUBLIC ARGUMENT WITH WILLIAM FEW:

Kiukas, March 31, 1795

To: William Few, Esq.

SIR,

Your address to me, besides a train of unfounded insinuations, and unwarrantable expressions, contains the following, "Should you on reading of this, which is calculated to the nature of your disorder, feel any unpleasant sensations, either mental or corporal, remember it is then operative as intended, and will teach you that you are not permitted to attack characters with impunity." In my reply I pointed out to you when and where I might be found; and gave you this alternative, that if you should prefer it, I should find out your peaceful home in due time.

In conformity to this reciprocation I am now in your neighborhood, and my friend General Glascock waits the moment of your appointment. I now demand of you, at your own door, the satisfaction usual in such cases.
ROBERT WATKINS.

I DO hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the challenge delivered by me to Mr. Few, at his own house, in the afternoon of the 31st, and that the following is a true statement of the answer and progress as came within my knowledge:-On reading the challenge over, Mr. Few observed to me, "I find Mr. Watkins wishes to spill blood; I believe I shall gratify him tomorrow or next day; and as I am the person challenged, I have a right to choose my own weapons--! I shall therefore make choice of a gun and bayonet, and you may tell him so."

I told him it was very well, and desired him to write Mr. W. to that effect -we then went into the house, as I took for granted for that purpose-Instead of which he some time after came in with a sealed letter, which I refused to receive until I saw the contents-When I found the letter to be retracing from the principles before understood between us, that is was not founded on facts and couched in a language not admissible I declined delivering it to Mr. Watkins, as the answer, and tore it up in Mr. Few's presence the next morning, giving him those reasons for so doing.

Having reported Mr. Few's first answer to Mr. Watkins, he gave me the following in charge the next morning, together with Mr. McMillan's paper of the 26th March, both of which I delivered to him in the forenoon of that day.

THOMAS GLASCOCK
Kiukas, April 1, 1795.

S I R, (TO: William Few, Esq.)

In the most unequivocal terms I accept your choice of weapons. As you have chosen the gun and bayonet, nothing now remains but the time and place, which my friend General Glascock will arrange with you.
ROBERT WATKINS.

On delivering the above to Mr. Few, I demanded of him if he had not agreed to what was there stated ?-He acknowledged he had; but that on reflection he had thought better of it, and had declined it; and finally refused to give Mr. Watkins the satisfaction demanded,
Given under my hand, at Augusta, this 2nd of April, 1795.
THOMAS GLASCOCK.

In the public paper handed him by the General on the second day, besides documents which must forever disgrace him when brought into view with his present conduct; I gave Mr. Few directly the LIE in a matter which all will own he willfully LIED, and asked him this pointed [question]... Do you really mean, Mr. Few, to cover yourself with the sacred shield of cowardice?" with this remark "if you do acknowledge it at once I may perhaps in such case be decided to pass over you as disgracing even the dignity of revenue."

"That Mr. Few has proven himself to be the basest of COWARDS, as well as a LIAR must now be as obvious as the meridian sun in unclouded heaven.

"As to the treaty at New-York I am since told he made some feign opposition to it-no doubt, merely to blind the researches of the people of this country into his conduct; and perhaps, he had address enough to obtain the thanks of the Legislature of the moment. Still not a trace of this opposition, nor of the proceedings of Senate is to be found on the Journals handed to the public-and his after conduct is a confirmation of his savoring the measure.

"One of the remaining charges goes to the BRIBERY, CORRUPTION and PERJURY of Mr. Few as a Senator in the Congress of the United States. If he wants further documents, since he will not fight for his reputation, he must require me to produce them through the forms of a Court of Justice. Such is this man's hardened assurance and rascality he will not hesitate flatly to deny anything and every thing that can be said against him.* I therefore take my leave of such a wretch, and shall not trouble myself or the public with further charges or proofs against him, unless he shall require it to be done before a jury of his country.

"Should Mr. Few, however, be_____ enough to continue the INK, the printers will oblige me by delivering him this over and over again, until he -take himself to the_____ of cowards, or hide himself from the face of day.

"ROBERT WATKINS. Augusta, April 2th, 1795."

Newspaper note:

"James Simms, Esq., of Columbia, some time in the last year charged Mr. Few in the most pointed manner, with corruption of the darkest die, and produced several documents in point which he did not flinch at denying without even a decent investigation."

"Country Life in Georgia In the Days of My Youth" Felton, Rebecca Latimer, 1835-1930

Regarding the Yazoo scandal: page 12-13

"Augusta was the capital of Georgia, and the record shows that the honor of the state and her greatest public interests were bartered off by traitorous Representatives and the Chief Executive. EXCEPT ONE MAN, ROBERT WATKINS by name, the official record in Washington city shows that every man who voted for the sale was corruptly influenced. The Senate of Georgia consisted of 20 members - ten voted for the sale, 8 against it. In the Lower House there were 34 members - nineteen voted for the sale and nine in the negative. In these volumes, called "American State Papers," the amounts paid to these traitorous representatives are set down. Some received cash, some large grants of land, some had Negroes conveyed to them, etc., but the whole story is blazoned in full in these official records."

pages 13 and 14

"There were only two Superior Court districts in the State, and one of the two judges was William Stith, who accepted \$13,000 in cash and promise of the traitors to elect him the next Governor of Georgia. The contrast was great between Judge Stith and Judge George WALTON, who illustrated his office and retired from the bench without a spot or blemish on his character."

Augusta Chronicle, Nov 7, 1795

"Return of the General Elections:

"RICHMOND COUNTY

Senator: Robert Walton, Esq

Representatives: Robert Watkins and Augustus C. G. Elholm, Esqrs"

Augusta Chronicle, March 27, 1796

"NOTICE... CAPT. John P. Wagon having appointed and fully constituted the subscriber his Attorney at law and in fact; all persons having demands against him are requested to bring them forward duly attested; and those indebted are desired to make payment within a reasonable time; or other more efficient measures will necessarily be applied.
ROBERT WATKINS, March 8, 1796"

Augusta Chronicle, January 14, 1797

"NOTICE, Georgia, Richmond County.

"AGREEABLY to an order from his Excellency the governor of the 30th, an election will be held at the courthouse in Augusta on Saturday the 14th instant, for a clerk of the inferior court, in the room of Nathaniel Cocke, Esq, dec'd, at which time the electors of this county are required to give their attendance.

"Given under our hands, this 3rd day of January, 1797.

ROBERT WALTON

John Course

Abraham Jones

John Willson"

Augusta Chronicle, February 11, 1797

The copy for this article is entirely smudged on the left side, but it is possible to determine that it deals with the fact that JOHN CATLETT had seen both "MR. WATKINS" and "MR. LONGSTREET'S" roller machines, and "The two machines as distinct from the other in their principles and operations as it is possible for two roller gins..."

Augusta Chronicle, October 12, 1799

"Monday the 7th instant, being the day appointed by law for holding the election for a senator and representatives in each county, the following gentlemen were elected:

RICHMOND (COUNTY)

SENATOR: ROBERT WALTON, Esq.

REPRESENTATIVES: ROBERT WATKINS and George Walker, Esqrs."

Augusta Chronicle, April 1, 1800

"NOTIFICATION, THE undersigned intending to reside principally at ROSNY, a favorite country seat in the neighborhood of Augusta; notifies his clients and others who may have business to transact with him, that he will in future, when unengaged at court, regularly attend at his office in the city of Monday, Wednesday and Friday in every week, from nine o'clock in the morning until the afternoon of each day, for the dispatch of business.

"He will attend the Federal Circuit court at Savannah and Augusta, the meeting of the Judges at Louisville, and no other state courts than in the counties of Richmond, Burke, and Columbia, except on extraordinary occasions. Those who may have claims on his services in unfinished business in other courts, may have other counsel employed for them, or their money returned, or both if required.

"Having lately formed a connection with EDMUND B. JENKINS, Esq. a member of the bar, those concerned are further notified, that he will attend the office every day during the same hours.

"ROBERT WATKINS"

Augusta Chronicle, December 11, 1800

"To Be Rented or Leased, for a Term of Years,

The brick buildings lately occupied by Mr. Wm. S. Smith, situate on Broad Street, in the upper part of Augusta, being the former place of residence of the subscriber.

"The adjoining stores will be let either with or without the main building.

ROBERT WATKINS"

Source: "History of Augusta" Chapter: "Bench and Bar" pages 227-228

"ROBERT WATKINS compiled in conjunction with his brother, George, "WATKINS DIGEST", our oldest digest of Georgia laws, and fought a duel in 1802 with Governor James Jackson, growing out of this work. General James Jackson, as the most active opponent of the Yazoo sale and the author of the Rescinding Act, as elected governor in 1798. In this capacity he rejected the digest of Georgia laws prepared by ROBERT and GEORGE WATKINS, on the ground that the compilers had inserted in the volume the Yazoo Act of 1795, in defiance of the Rescinding Act, which declared it never to have been one of the laws of the State. By this means, a costly edition was thrown on the hands of the compilers to the pecuniary loss, and with the result of engendering a bitterness of feeling which developed into a hostile meeting some years afterwards between Governor Jackson and ROBERT WATKINS, which was conducted in the highest style of punctilio. While the seconds were arranging the terms of the combat, the principals conversed "with great elegance and entire politeness" on different matters, so that no one would have imaged they were about presently to cut each other's throats. Then the seconds notified the combatants of the terms agreed on: You are to stand at the distance of ten paces; you are to fire at the word make ready, fire! a snap of a flash is to be counted as a shot, etc, etc. At the first fire both pistols went off into the ground; the second was a blank shot; at the third Governor Jackson fell, shot 'secundem artem', in the right hip. He insisted on another fire, but the surgeons claimed the right to first examine him; and on the report that the ball might have entered the cavity, hostilities ceased. Mr. Watkins's, with great civility, offered his services to bear the wounded man from the field; and, on being carried off, the governor most affably remarked, "D--n it, Watkins, I thought I could give you another shot."

Historic Note: YAZOO ACT: 1795 Gov. George Mathews signed a laudable-sounding piece of legislation that had as its title:

An Act supplementary to an Act entitled 'An Act for appropriating a part of the unallocated territory of this state for the payment of the late state troops, and for other purposes therein mentioned, declaring the right of this State to the unappropriated territory thereof, for the protection and support of the frontiers of this State, and for other purposes.'

This was the formal description of what would become known as the Yazoo Act -- the most controversial single piece of legislation ever enacted by the General Assembly. Four private land companies had bribed state legislators to pass the law, which allowed them to purchase 35 million acres of Georgia's western lands for less than 2 cents per acre. Because many of the legislators who voted for the act owned stock in the land companies, this became known as the Yazoo Land Fraud. Once the people of Georgia learned what had been done, there was immediate reaction, resulting in election of a new legislature which not only repealed the Yazoo Act but demanded that every copy of the law be destroyed. However, attempts to reclaim lands sold by the companies by refunding the purchase price were less successful, with some purchasers refusing to sell the land back. Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court would rule against Georgia's attempts to reclaim land sold as a result of the Yazoo Act.

THE DUEL WITH GOV. JAMES JACKSON

Augusta Chronicle, June 29, 1802

(Newspaper account of the duel. I apologize for missing words, but the copy of the article was very smudged/vsm)

STATE or GEORGIA,
Augusta, June 21, 1802

"Mr. Printer,

As no doubt can be entertained but that public curiosity will be on the search to "obtain 'information, in so interesting a subject as the Duel lately fought by two distinguished characters in this State; and as no man can be better informed of the particular of that transaction than myself; I take the earliest opportunity of requesting you to give publicity to the following statement, which, I pledge myself, is strictly correct, to the best of my recollection arid belief. Your speedy compliance will much oblige.

Sir, your obedient servant,
RALPH SPENCE PHILIPS.

IN consequence of an encounter which took place at Louisville, on the afternoon of Wednesday the 16th instant, between General James Jackson, and Colonel Robert Watkins, when they were separated by the interposition of a crowd, and their pistols wrestled from them, I was commissioned as the friend of the latter to wait on the former and demand satisfaction at a more fit time and place-Having accepted the office I accordingly had an interview with the General, who readily agreed to answer my friend in the manner required. Mr. Collier, the General's friend, called on me in the course of the evening, and early the next morning for the purpose of appointing time and place - privileged in that respect he proposed both, neither of which being satisfactory, and although strictly speaking, I was not entitled to object to either, yet under the peculiar circumstances of this case, I was anxious to change the place, and felt myself warranted in endeavoring to remove the seat of action without the jurisdiction of the State, as well on account of our unwillingness to condemn the laws, as to avoid every kind of interruption. I therefore stated, that I should consider it a favor, if he would appoint any spot beyond Oconee River, which I understood was within about 20 miles, or any other place within the United States; this not being acceded to, I then proposed that the meeting should be on halfway ground, between the places of their respective residence; this also being rejected, my last proposal was made, to determine by lot, in which of their own Counties the affair should be decided. This sharing the same fate with all former propositions, and finding Mr. Collier restricted to the counties of Jefferson and Burke; in conformity to the positive _____ in which I had received, arrangements were made to meet the General on his own ground; accordingly the place was fixed in Burke county, on the main road leading from Louisville to Waynesborough, about 24 miles from the former and from the latter, and the time eleven o'clock the next morning, Friday the 18th inst.

Arrived at the ground, Mr. Collier and I had n difficulty in making the necessary arrangements, having in the first instance agreed, that should any difference of opinion arise between us, a toss of a dollar should give the winner his choice. I requested Mr. C. to propose the distance, he mentioned "eight or ten steeps," I replied that he might choose for I was commissioned by my friend to give him that privilege, provided it did not exceed ten steps.

It is worthy of remark, that whilst we were adjusting our affairs, the principals had entered into polite and general

conversation; so gentlemanly was the conduct, that any strange, unacquainted with the object of their meeting, have seen them together, he might have imagined that the greatest cordiality subsisted; nothing like irritation on either side, not a word but what the strictest propriety could dictate.

It had been expressly stipulated by Mr. C. and myself, that no person whatever should be on the ground, other than, the General, the Colonel, their seconds and Surgeons, who were Messrs. Powell, White and Pughley.

As it would be rather tedious to enter into the minutae of this business, I shall proceed to state the more essential points.

Mr. Collier having determined on ten yards as the distance, I stepped them off and requested he would do the same, and let me know if he approved of the paces, having done so and being satisfied, we placed our friends on their respective grounds, and there explained to them the etiquette we had agreed on, which appeared to be satisfactory to both.

Article first. When in your places, neither is to speak a word to the other, if any communication should be thought necessary, it must be through your seconds.

Second. You are to fire by the words of command, make read, fire: which your seconds are to give _____tion.

Third. You are bound by honor to fire both together, and as _____ as _____ the instant of received the word, and should either withhold his fire, it should _____.

Mr. C. was entitled to give the word for the first discharge, having won it from me, we therefore handed our friends their pistols, and took our positions, when the word being given rather quickly for the gentlemen, both their _____ ground between them; at the second discharge I gave the word, which being much slower they both as _____; whereupon re retired to load again and the antagonists joined each other in polite conversation _____the _____ difference of time between Mr. C and myself _____ continuing, the same _____; we therefore had to propose a third (round) each.

It may truly be said that, during all this time, the General and Colonel dueled with each other, in bravery neither could claim the palm, in coolness and deliberation, neither could obtain the ascendancy; in liberality, politeness, generosity, gentlemanly conduct, they were equal to the end of the chapter, _____ was received without a _____ concern, their souls seemed to _____ to the passions of revenge or _____, and appearing in discord all such _____, they _____ their cause of the _____ of this very honorable conflict.

The third time did these brave men take their stands, it being Mr. Collier's turn to direct the fire of the fifth _____. Colonel Watkins's ball took _____, having entered the General a little to the rear and above the right hip, piercing through I suppose almost six or eight inches; the affair was then concluded.

It think it is necessary here to mention, in order so _____ the courage of the General, and the _____ generosity of the Col, that after the General had received his wound, he called out walking "I believe I can give you another shot", to which the Col replied, "just as you please General, if it is your wish, you can have it now, or at any time hereafter, when you are better able to defend yourself, it would be far from my inclination to take any advantage by firing at you in a state of agony." General Jackson rejoined that he had come there to give him satisfaction, and was determined to do so if he had to stay there any hour, or whilst he was able to stand, but that he should be satisfied with the Col. Was - the business thus placed on its proper footing, the Colonel declared himself satisfied. Whereupon I clarified to Mr. Collier, that as Col. Watkins had called the General to the ground, it was certainly with him to say when he was satisfied, that having done so I hoped the affair was at an end; to which Mr. C. Readily asserted, provided it was to be completed so, and that every thing unpleasant which had passed between them, should be buried in _____, under these impressions, the offered hand of the General was cordially received by the Colonel, and I observed to them both, that I hoped their future friendship would exceed their passes enmity; they vocally declared _____be their sincere wish that it should.

Shortly after the General was conveyed from the ground, he _____ declared, "D-n it Watkins, I thought I could have given you another shot, but I see I was mistaken," thus evincing that his courage was the same, although unable to support his own frame.

The proffered assistance of the Col. was kindly received by the Gen., who observed that had Watkins been in his position, he would have attended him as a brother. The Col. did not fail to reciprocate similar statements; every act of friendship was therefore cordially offered and thankfully received. After arriving at the quarters prepared for him, the General requested the Col. to call up his brother Abraham, which he did, and when Major Jackson came into the room, he addressed himself to him and his friend Mr. Collier, in presence of several gentlemen to the effect that, "This has been

a fair duel; Col Watkins has behaved like a gentleman, and a man of spirit, therefore it is my order to you and my friends, and it shall be my last dying wish should my wound prove mortal, that he is not to be prosecuted, nor any trouble given him on my account."

"Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials & Legends" Vol 2 Chapter: "Under The Code Duello" page 10-11

"Perhaps the most inveterate political enemy of the old Governor was ROBERT WATKINS, of Augusta. Watkins was at this time one of the recognized leaders of the Georgia Bar. He was a member of the Yazoo Legislature of 1795 and a supporter of the bill for the sale of Georgia's western lands, regarding this measure purely in the light of a real estate transaction. With his brother, George, he compiled the earliest DIGEST OF GEORGIA LAWS.

"But, most unfortunately, when the volume appeared in 1800, it contained the obnoxious Yazoo Act, rescinded by the Legislature of 1796; and Governor Jackson, who was then occupying the Executive Chair, refused to draw his warrant upon the treasury and in other ways put the seal of his official condemnation upon this earliest Digest of Georgia Laws. In vain WATKINS expostulated. He showed that while his digest carried the obnoxious measure, it also carried the Repealing Act, the one counter-balancing the other. But the old Governor was obdurate. He regarded the Yazoo Act as a usurpation and he did not wish to see it monumentalized upon the statute-books.

"Thus the issue was joined. On both sides there was much bitterness of feeling. At least three separate duels were fought between Gov. Jackson and Robert Watkins. In the last of these encounters, the old Governor was severely wounded in the right hip. He was lifted from the ground, and finding that he could still stand alone, insisted upon another exchange of shots. But the surgeon urged an examination. He pried into the wound and, fearing that the bullet might have entered the cavity, ordered a cessation of hostilities. With great civility, so it is said, Mr. Watkins helped to bear the wounded man from the field; whereupon, the old Governor, who remained perfectly rational throughout and who was not to be outdone in courtesy by his antagonist, was heard to observe:

"Hang it, Watkins, I thought I could give you another shot."

"Though a small appropriation was secured for the Watkins Digest, the book was never authorized. Capt. Horatio MARBURN, then Secretary of State, was two commissioners, was subsequently appointed to make a Digest. William H. CRAWFORD and GEORGE WATKINS were chosen to assist him; but the latter, on account of his aggrieved feelings, declined to serve. Marbury and Crawford prosecuted the task alone and, in due time, completed the undertaking. It is known to this day as Marbury and Crawford's Digest of Georgia Laws.

"Besides the formal encounters which took place between JACKSON and WATKINS, they met somewhat unceremoniously on certain occasions and engaged in fisticuff fights. One of these occurred soon after the Yazoo Act was rescinded, showing that the enmity between the two men ran back to the famous land speculation in which some of the most influential men of Georgia were involved. The difficulty occurred in Louisville, at the close of the Legislative session. We quote this paragraph from a letter describing the affair: "This was done to bring on dispute. Flesh and blood of such texture as mine would not bear it (i.e. the provocation offered by WATKINS), and the lie and stick involuntarily flew on him." In this encounter, Gov. Jackson was stabbed in several places and for a time his wounds were thought to be mortal."

"Story of Augusta" by Edward J. Cashin, 1980. page 51

"ROBERT WATKINS voted for the Yazoo Act but made it clear that HE WAS NOT A SHAREHOLDER. He thought that the bill would help the state by keeping taxes down, and he believed that the people's interest was protected by the reservation of over seven million acres for their purchase. For his outspoken defense of the Yazoo Act, ROBERT WATKINS would be embroiled in disputes for years. The first occurred when William Few challenged him to a duel. Few, John Twiggs, John Wreath and others had formed a company which offered the legislature more for the western lands than the successful companies. When Few and the others protested, Watkins said that he doubted that they acted from patriotic motives. That is why Few made his challenge: Watkins accepted and Few changed his mind. Later Watkins fought a series of duels with James Jackson over the Yazoo business.

GEORGE WALTON'S cousin and nephew, therefore, were prominent Yazooists. Thomas Glascock's sister was the wife of Robert WALTON. George Walton, Jr. married George Walker's daughter, Sally. So, it is not surprising to find

Walton defending the Yazooists as criticism mounted. The first real opposition to the act was voiced by Grand Juries in their presentments to him as he moved about his district. The Richmond Grand Jury, which included John Twiggs of the disappointed company and Ezechiel Harris the new tobacco merchant, state that "the citizens generally execrated the business.""When the angry James Jackson resigned his Senate seat to fight the Yazoo Act, Walton was appointed to finish out the term, adding the title Senator to the many he already bore. Back in Augusta Walton resumed his judgeship and found the Yazoo reaction out of hand. He boldly accused James Jackson of fanning the popular prejudices like a demagogue. Justice could not be meted out with minds so inflamed, he thought. He cited the case in which Ezechiel Harris and three friends had openly lynched a man and were brought to trial before Judge William Few. When judge and jury learned that the murdered man was a Yazooist, they concluded that he got what was coming to him and let Harris and his friends go free." ~!

"History of the Georgia Militia" Volume 4, "History of the Richmond Hussars, The Companies" page 133

"From the rank and arrangement of the Richmond County militia in "Georgia Military Affairs (1775-1793", I, (bound transcript), 300, in the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, GA. ROBERT WATKINS (died 1805) was commissioned as a lieutenant in the 5th Regiment Virginia Continental Line. He moved to Savannah, later to Richmond County, GA, after the Revolution. He was admitted to the practice of law there. He became a colonel in the Richmond County militia. While living in Savannah he married his first cousin, Elizabeth Martha WALTON, the only daughter of the Hon. John WALTON, on 22 June, 1785. As a member of the Georgia Legislature he voted in favor of the Yazoo Acts. In 1800 he and his brother George edited their "Digest of the Laws of Georgia", Robert WATKINS fighting a series of duels with James Jackson as a result of this compilation's inclusion of the Yazoo Acts. WATKINS died in Bath, South Carolina (Richmond County, GA?) on 24 August, 1805. He was buried in the family cemetery on his plantation ROSNEY in Richmond County. His wife died at the age of 37 on 3 May, 1809, at Rosney. Frances B. Heitman, "Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During The War of the Revolution" April 1775 to December, 1783 (Washington, DC, 1914), 575, account of duel between Watkins and James Jackson in "His Last Duel" in "Savannah Morning News," 22 April 1885 (from "Field Of Honor"); second account of the Watkins-Jackson duel in "Four Famous Georgia Duels Fought in Closing Years of Eighteenth and Beginning of Nineteenth Centuries" in "Savannah Morning News," 14 February 1915 (Frank Willing Leach in the "Philadelphia North American"); Grace Gillam Davidson, comp., "Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters, NSDAR, II (Athens, GA., 1929), 338-339; Charles Stephen Gurr et al., eds., "Dictionary of Georgia Biography," II, (Athens, GA, 1983), 1040-1041 (Henceforth, "Savannah Morning News" cited as SMN).

"Story of Augusta" by Edward J. Cashin, 1980. page 59

"Virginia Airs 1798-1818"

Discussing "The Hill", where George Walton had a tract of 250 acres. By 1810, Thomas (Lord) Sandwich could boast that the Hill was so healthy that "most of the respectable citizens have their summer residence here." In 1804, Dr. Dennis Smelt removed his patients there, and it was his observation that they quickly recovered from "bilious, remitting fever" which had plagued Augusta that summer. "And so during this period the Hill acquired a name and a reputation for health and respectability. When Thomas Cumming bought his first ten acres in 1800, he was identified in the deed as "merchant". When he bought an additional 261 acres in 181, he had become "Thomas Cumming, Gentleman." By that time the Virginia attitudes which provide the theme for this chapter had come to characterize the community of Summerville.

"The most bizarre manifestation of the new impulse to act as gentlemen was the rash of duels which occurred in Augusta in the first two decades of the new century. Some of Georgia's leading citizens insisted on fighting duels and soon it seemed that everyone was challenging everyone else. Governor James Jackson fought ROBERT WATKINS because Watkins included the Yazoo Act in his digest of Georgia laws. The two met on a field outside Louisville, chatted coolly until their seconds gave the word, then paced off the correct number of steps, turned and fired. When both men missed, they repeated the maneuver and missed again. On the third try, Jackson was hit in the hip; he expressed a willingness to go for a fourth shot, but Watkins was satisfied. According to the code the honor of both men was vindicated. William Crawford fought two famous duels, killed his opponent in the first and then receiving a wound in the wrist in the second."

ROBERT WATKINS DEATH NOTICE:

Augusta Chronicle, August 31, 1805

"DIED, On the 24th instant, at Bath, near Augusta, in the State of Georgia, ROBERT WATKINS, Esq, Counselor at law, and Col. of Richmond County.

"If connubial love, parental fondness, humanity to the slave, charity to the indigent, attachment to the friend, and patriotism to the commonwealth, deserve to be _____, I say, none that has left us, _____ high encomium in a more _____ than our department friend. Col. Watkins, from a good education, and great application to study, became eminent in the law, and from the exercise of this liberal profession, he rendered great services to his clients, and was actually the Idol of the Bar - In private and domestic life he deserves to be quoted; in all his public transactions, which were numerous, he deserves to be imitated; nature designed him for great performances and, and the world has not been disappointed.

As a soldier he was brave and undaunted; as a commander, he was not only obeyed but loved, and was extremely popular at the head of his ranks...perhaps few men that have passed the rugged and tempestuous scene of life, have sustained a character more chaste, a conduct more uniform, and a deportment more dignified, than this gentleman...such as the fondness of his fellow citizens for him, that when they heard the knell sound, which announced his death, they were [panic] struck, dismay was seated in every countenance, and each _____ sympathized for the irreparable loss which his amiable consort, and innocent children, had sustained. The writer of his, does not know his age, but is fully impressed with the idea, that he had not reached the meridian of life."

AT a meeting of the members of the bar of the middle district, on Tuesday the 17th of August, 1805..

SEABORN JONES, Esq. In the chair.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, that Messrs. WARE and F. WALKER be a committee to draft a resolution or resolutions, expressive of our regret at the death of our late brother, Robert WATKINS, Esq.

In conformity to the resolution of the bar of the middle district, the committee have taken into consideration the melancholy death of Robert Watkins, Esqr, and while they lament the loss society has sustained in the death of one so eminently distinguished, for the exercise of every manly virtue, they beg leave to submit as feeble tribute of respect for the name of their departed brother, and as a memento of the high estimation in which they held his transcendent worth, the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the bar of the middle district will wear crape on their left arm, for the space of three months, as an emblem of regret for the death of their much esteemed brother.

Which report was read, unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be published."

"WATKINS, COL. ROBERT, of Augusta, 40 years, d Bath S.C. 7/18/1805, left wife and four children, buried at family cemetery at Rosney 8/18/1805; AC 8/31/1805; Monitor 8/31/1805"

Mrs. Watkins, 37 years old, died 5/3/1809 at Rosney, left five children. AH 5/11/1809; AC 5/13/1809"

1941: "ABOUT AUGUSTA. KNOW YOUR STREETS.....In 1816, five years after Walker Street had been incorporated into the city, additional lots were marked off south of Walker. A new street was created and named in honor of ROBERT WATKINS, eminent member of the Georgia Bar. WATKINS STREET today consists of two links, the intervening gap being almost twice the distance of either of the sections. ROBERT WATKINS, with his brother, George, compiled "Watkin's Digest," the earliest

ROBERT married¹ **Elizabeth Martha * WALTON**, daughter of John (brother of signer) * WALTON and Elizabeth "Betsey" CLAIBORNE, on 22 Jun 1785. Elizabeth was born 1772 in Georgia. She died¹ 3 May 1809 in Rosney Plantation,

GA and was buried in Rosney Plantation.

Elizabeth married her cousin, Robert Watkins, son of Sallie.

"WATKINS, Robert, esq, of Savannah; & WALTON, Miss Elizabeth Martha, only daughter Hon. John WALTON, esq., married 6/22/1785; GG 6/23/1785"

Note: Robert Watkins: June 4,1804 - Robert Watkins appt. guardian of George Walton, minor orphan of Robert Walton, (Esq) dec'd. Thomas Glascock, Sec.

POWER OF ATTORNEY:

"STATE OF GEORGIA. KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that I, ROBERT WATKINS of Rosney in the same State, Attorney at Law, heir at law by intermarriage with ELIZABETH MARTHA WALTON, only surviving issue of the honorable JOHN WALTON Esquire of New Savannah in the said State, deceased, who was assignee representative and heir at law of LEONARD CLAIBORNE Esquire, late of the State of Virginia, attorney at law, deceased, do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my trusty friend Thomas Woodleif, Esquire, of the Said State of Virginia, my true and lawful attorney, for me and in my name, to ask for, demand, and receive, or sue and loyally recover whatsoever the lott or lotts, land or lands, which may be my right, in the said last mentioned State, as heir at law and legal representative as aforesaid. And I do hereby further authorize my said friend, to rent, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of the same, or any part thereof to my use and benefit, and in my name to transfer and convey the same, and do bind myself, my heirs executors and administrators to uphold and support the said Woodleif in all which legal acting and doings; and to ratify and confirm what my said attorney may do in this respect, which shall be as binding up on me and my heirs, as if the same had been transacted by myself in person. 19th NOVEMBER, 1791.

Signed and sealed & delivered ROBERT WATKINS, L.S. in the presence of J. C. WALTON, THO. WATKINS, Recorded November 19th, 1791."

"Mrs. Watkins, 37 years old, died 5/3/1809 at Rosney, left five children. AH 5/11/1809; AC 5/13/1809" The actual quote on the 13th only says that Mrs. Watkins died on the third instant, the relict of the late Col. Watkins, at Rosney.

Per a letter from her son, Claiborne, in 1846, in which he mentions his mother (see Claiborne for complete transcription of letter):

"Be pleased to send my Mother's letter or bring it with you after Christmas. It is a choice family relict - and recalls a few short warm recollections of my Mother whose maternal love I enjoyed only to the age of seven years. Still, I remember her distinctly as fond, kind -- though very ill, having suffered a long time from Consumption."

December 1809: "Notice, on Saturday the 6th day of January next, Will Be HIRED, To the highest bidder at Rosney, the late residence of Col. Robert Watkins, dec. upwards of fifty Negroes, consisting of men, women, boys and girls, for the term of one year. One the same day will be rented the mansion house at Rosney with the improvements attached thereto; Also the establishment at the Richmond Baths, for one year; Being the property of the Estate of Robert Watkins dec. Conditions will be made known on that day. Anderson WATKINS, Adm'r."

They had the following children:

2 M i. **John Walton WATKINS** was born 1786. He died² 29 Oct 1791 in Rosney Plantation, GA from "worm fever".

"Watkins, Master John Walton, son of Robert Watkins, 5 yrs, d. 10-29-1791 at Rosney, AC 11/5/1791"

3 M ii. **Col. THOMAS ** WATKINS** was born bet 1787-1788. He died³ 7 Mar 1823/1824 in Augusta, Ga.

ROBERT WATKINS, dec'd. November 22, 1805: Elizabeth M. Watkins, and Anderson Watkins, appt. Admrs. Thos. Glascock, Oswell Eve, George Watkins, Sec. January 13, 1812:

Division of estate at Rosny (sp?) late residence between four of the children and heirs: Oldest son Thomas Watkins; next Robert, George, Claiborn Anderson and John Robert Watkins."

Colonel - 10th Regiment, Georgia Militia

The soldiers whose names appear below served in the Indian Wars succeeding the Revolution, but were not Revolutionary soldiers. The names marked with an asterisk (*) do not appear in our third report:

1820 Census Richmond Co., GA

page 3 of census:

Thomas Watkins 2 m 16-26 (2 of Thos.' brothers)
1 m 26-45 Thomas (wife dead)

Mary Hatcher (Thomas Watkins' mother-in-law, his children with her)
3 m under 10
1 f under 10
1 f over 45 Mary Hatcher

Minutes of the Inferior Court, Richmond County, GA

Jan., 1821: Thomas Watkins appointed guardian of John R. Walker at his request.

"Historical Collections of the Georgia D.A.R." page 339

"ROBERT WATKINS, who married his cousin Elizabeth WALTON, resided at Rosney, Richmond Co., GA. Their son THOMAS married ELIZABETH ARRINGTON, who was a niece of Mrs. Edward Rowell. Martha WATKINS, daughter of THOMAS and Elizabeth Arrington married Charles DELAIGLE of Richmond Co., GA."

"Descendants of William Claiborne" (repeated quote)

"Issue: (WATKINS), Thomas, died 7 March 1824. He married 22 Feb 1809 in Richmond Co., GA, Eliza. Henry Arrington, daughter of Henry and Mary (Robertson) Bugg Arrington. He inherited "Rosney" but became financially involved, and 2,000 acres, saw and grist mills, thirty-three slaves and the manor house were sold to pay thirty-eight separate judgments against him. Subsequently, however, the plantation was repurchased for \$3000 on 24 July 1817 and put in the names of his children: Mary E. M., Robert A., Isaac T., and Walker W. WATKINS."

"WATKINS, COL. THOMAS, died 3-7-1824, oldest son of the late Col. Robert Watkins, AC 3-10-1824" Note, there is no microfilm record of the newspaper on this day.

1820 Richmond County Census: WATKINS 204-218-220-235-237

1830 Richmond County Census: WATKINS 267-270-271-279-292

1840 Richmond County Census: WATKINS 291-301-302

1850 Richmond County Census: WATKINS 457B-505A-513B

"History of the Georgia Militia, 1783-1861" Volume 4: The Companies: page 153

1st Battalion, redesignated the 27th Battalion in 1804; MAJ James Fox (1st Battalion)(comm. 9 February 1798); MAJ. THOMAS WATKINS (comm. 18 February 1811); MAJ. GEORGE W. WATKINS (comm. 28 September 1818); MAJ James Knight (Comm. 29 November 1821), MAJ Thomas H. Handley (comm. 15 August 1823)."

"Memoirs of Georgia" page 43

"The WAR OF 1812"

"England and France were shedding each other's blood at this time, and both of these countries had issued orders respecting American commerce. They took offense at the neutral attitude of the United States and threatened to capture all American Vessels and imprison their seamen. England added to this offensive threat by actually putting it into outrageous execution.".... "On June 18, 1812, war against England was declared.

[In Georgia] Gov Mitchell called attention to the unprotected coast, and to the need of troops for the purpose of defying the invader. The call was promptly answered by the legislature with an appropriation of \$30,000, and preparations for a thorough military defense were immediately commenced.

"Learning that the British had formed an alliance with the Spaniards in Florida, President Madison directly Gov. Mitchell to inquire into the situation. A correspondence ensued between Gov. Mitchell and the chief officer in charge of the affairs in East Florida, with a view to annexation, but the proposition was indignantly repelled. An effort was made to drive the American troops away, but in this attempt the British and Spaniards failed signally. Leaving Col. Smith in charge of the troops, Gov. Mitchell returned to Georgia. In order to protect the coast, two companies of infantry were stationed in each of the counties of CAMDEN, Bryan and Chatham and along the Florida line. The Seminoles in Florida were instigated by the Spaniards, but after several engagements, conducted by Adj. Gen. Newman, they were brought to terms."

Source: "Memorial History of Augusta" by Charles C. Jones, Jr., 1890, page 225

"Governor Milledge was one of the incorporators of the Protestant Episcopal Society of Augusta, chartered in 1816 by the General Assembly, the incorporators named in the act being John Milledge, John Carter, Valentine WALKER, GEORGE WALTON, THOMAS WATKINS, Richard Tubman, Edward F. Campbell, Augustin Slaughter, Freeman Walker, Joseph Hutchinson, William M. Cowles, Walter Leigh, John A. Barnes, Milledge Golphin, and Patrick Carnes. The first Episcopal clergyman in Augusta was Rev. Jonathan Copp who labored diligently from 1751 to 1756. In 1758 we find St. Paul's recognized as the parish church in Augusta, and some years after Rev. Samuel Prink was rector. In 1786, after the turmoil of the Revolution was over, a new St. Paul's Church was built on the ruins of the old one burned during the war, and Rev. Mr. Boyd was pastor till about the close of the 18th Century. After that no Episcopal Church organization was maintained, until the organization of the Protestant Episcopal Society in 1816 as stated. "

1816. The Protestant Episcopal Society in Augusta is incorporated on December 13th 1816. Trustees appointed were John Milledge, John Carter, Valentine Walker, George Walton, Thomas Watkins, Richard Tubman, William M. Cowles, Walter Leigh, John A. Barnes, Milledge Galphin, and Patrick Carnes.

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"The Trustees of Richmond Academy were directed to convey them an acre of ground for the erection of church. The act required that three pews in the church should be reserved for the use of strangers, and provided that no one residing out of the county should be eligible to be a trustee. " [The present] church was completed in 1820 and consecrated by Bishop Howell, of SC, on March 20, 1821."

Augusta Chronicle - October 12, 1793

"The following Returns of the General Election for Members of the House of Representatives and County Officers, held on Monday Last, are come to hand:

RICHMOND: Representatives, Robert WATKINS, and Samuel JACKS, Esqrs.; Sheriff: James

RICHARDS, Esq.; Clerk of the Superior Court: Thomas WATKINS, Esq.; Clerk of the Inferior Court: Philip CLAYTON, Esq.; Register of Probate: John MEAD, Esq.; County Surveyor: James BEALE, Esq.; Coroner: Abimelech HAWKINS, Esq.

Augusta Chronicle - October 12, 1793 "Augusta, Georgia, October 12...By His Excellency EDWARD TELFAIR, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State aforesaid,

"A PROCLAMATION. Official information having been received "that a malignant of YELLOW FEVER continues to rage in" the city of "Philadelphia that is extremely fatal" and it being necessary to prevent, as far as may be, its introduction within the limits of this State: I HAVE THEREFORE thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, requiring all ships or vessels, which may arrive in Savannah River from Philadelphia aforesaid, to remain in Tyler Creek, or in other ports at like distance from the town or settlement, until the health officer of the port shall, on examination, certify that no such malignant and contagious disease is on board; and all other communication, previous thereto, with or from such ships or vessels, is hereby strictly prohibited. (continues) "Any person or persons whomever, acting contrary hereunto, shall be deemed liable to [prosecution]. Given under my hand [etc] EDWARD TELFAIR. By His Excellency's Command; John MILTON, Sec. GOD Save the STATE."

Augusta Chronicle, September 9, 1818 - ATTENTION BATTALION. An election will be held at Spring Hill, (the usual muster ground) on the 2nd Saturday in September next, the 12th, proximo forma, to command the 1st Battalion, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the promotion of MAJOR THOMAS WATKINS. By order, Thomas WATKINS, Lt. COL. 10th Reg't. Geo. Militia; Thomas H. Handley, Ad'jt. August 26."

Augusta Chronicle January-February, 1819 - "SOLDIERS of the FLORIDA ARMY.....

I shall attend at Warrenton on the 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd inst. to pay off Capt. Stapleton and Dennis's companies; at the court-house in Columbia county, on the 24th, 26th, 27th, and 28th , for the purpose of paying off Capt Martin and Mappin's company; at AUGUSTA on the 30th and 31st, for the purpose of paying off Captain WATKIN'S company; at Waynesborough, on the 2nd and 3rd of February, for the purpose of paying off Capt. Scrugg's company; at Louisville on the 5th and 6th, for the purpose of paying off Capt. Rothwell's company; at the court-house in Scriven county on the 8th and 10th , for the purpose of paying off Capt. Pierce's company; at Montgomery court-house on the 12th and 13th , for the purpose of paying off Capt Cray's company; at the court-house in Bullock county, on the 15th and 17th, for the purpose of Capt. YOUNG's company. Persons interested will be punctual in their attendance.

JAS. ALSTON, P.M.G.M. January 6"

Augusta Chronicle, December 10, 1819 - "REGIMENTAL ORDERS. ATTENTION OFFICERS. A Regimental Muster will take place at the upper end of Greene Street, in the city of Augusta, on Saturday the 18th inst. precisely at 10 o'clock, A.M. LIEUT. COL. GEORGE W. WATKINS and Major Bars Cantelou, will be particularly attentive in giving legal warning to the respective Captains. By order of THOS. WATKINS, COL., 10th Regiment Geo. Militia; Thos H. HENDLY, adjut. November 24, 1819."

"History of the Georgia Militia 1783-1861" Volume I, Campaigns and Generals, page 373

"1st BRIGADE, 2nd DIVISION: Brigade Orders (about 11 April 1821), by order of Brigadier General Thomas GLASCOCK, signed by Samuel TAVER, aide-de-camp. COL. THOMAS WATKINS resignation (as commander of the 10th Regiment, G.M.) having been tendered and accepted, an election is scheduled for 21 May in Augusta to elect a new commander, Augusta "Chronicle," 12 April 1821. NOTE: later notices name the former commander as LTC George WATKINS."

November 8, 1819: "The undivided interest of ONE FIFTH part of 1700 acres of land, more or less, bounded by Oswell EVE, Edward ROWELL, and lands formerly belonging to the estate of S. Jones. Known by the name of ROSNEY. Levied upon as the property of Robert WATKINS, to satisfy an execution in favor of John McKinne, vs. Robert Watkins. A. BUGG, Sh'ff, R.C."

December 6, 1819: "The undivided interest or ONE FIFTH part of 1700 acres of land, more or less, bounded by Oswell EVE, Edward ROWELL, and lands formerly belonging to the estate of S. Jones. Known by the name of ROSNEY. Levied upon as the property of GEO. W. WATKINS, to satisfy an execution in favor of Cosby Dickinson and others. W. LAMKIN, D.S."

Augusta Chronicle, June 1822 (several of these ads appeared on various dates)

"SAW & GRIST MILLS

"The subscriber's Mills are still in operation, both SAW and GRIST. He will deliver Lumber in Augusta, at \$12 per thousand, and will cause every attention to be paid to each branch of his business. "His customers will be fairly dealt by." THOMAS WATKINS, April 8"

Augusta Chronicle, May 3, 7 and 10, 1823 (note, I have seen the newspaper microfilm for these ads, and they were definitely in 1823. It is possible that Thomas actually died in 1823, not 1824.

"BOARDING at ROSNEY. The subscriber, living at Rosney, the late residence of Col THOMAS WATKINS, seven miles from the city of Augusta, would be willing to receive and gladly accommodate boarders, either by the day, week or month, during the summer and fall months. This pleasant and delightful retreat is so well known that is deemed unnecessary to say anything in its favor. Those who would wish to enjoy good water, wholesome air, pleasant bathing, a fine prospect, and comfortable accommodations, may calculate upon finding satisfaction at this place. SAMUEL C. DOUGLASS, May 3."

Historical collections of the Georgia chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution

ROBERT WATKINS - May 3, 1824 - and MARY HATCHER, appointed guardians for Martha, Robert A., J. Thomas, and V. Walker WATKINS, minor orphans of Thomas WATKINS, deceased.

ROSNEY CHAPEL NOTES:

Rosney Chapel served as the meeting place of the Richmond County Agricultural Society in 1866, as announced in the Augusta Chronicle.

In 1875, the "Grangers" met there.

July, 1878, the Horticulture Society met at Rosney Chapel.

October, 1878, "a number of people expect to go out to the fair at Rosney Chapel."

1879: Presbyterian Church, Dr. Irvine will preach at Rosney Chapel on Butler's Creek at 3 pm (other time at his own church).

May 2, 1880: "ROSNEY CHAPEL. An entertainment for the benefit of Rosney Chapel (UNION CHURCH) will be given at the residence of Mr. A. W. Carmichael, on the Savannah Road, Thursday May 20th."

October 27, 1899: "A Halloween entertainment will be given tonight, Friday, at the residence of Miss Aphra Carmichael, on the old Savannah Road, to assist in raising funds for the rebuilding of Rosney Chapel Union Sunday School. Admission ten cents; refreshments free. All interested in a worthy cause invited to attend. The building committee are working faithfully and hope to begin work on the new Rosney chapel at an early date.

In October, 1900, there was an "entertainment at the home of West Haley on the Savannah Road for the benefit of Rosney Chapel."

April 12, 1901: NEW BUILDING AT ROSNEY CHAPEL CONSECRATED. "Rosney Chapel, on the old Savannah Road, in Richmond County, which was blown down a year or so ago, has

been rebuilded through the earnest and devoted labors of Rev. C. E. Weltner, and those associated with him in the work, and the new church is to be formally dedicated and consecrated at 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon." Mrs. Williams presented the history of the chapel." (rebuilded?)
1903: Services posted for St. Matthew's Lutheran Church: "Sunday school 9:30 am; English service 11 am; service at Rosney Chapel, 5 pm."
1925, Rosney Chapel near Old Savannah Road. Various church meetings there through these years.
NOTE: In "The Secret Eye"...regular church meetings were held at Rosney Chapel through the 1860's.

THOMAS married¹ **Elizabeth E. Henry * ARRINGTON (ARINTON)**, daughter of Henry ARRINGTON (ARINTON) * and Mary Stewart ** ROBISON, on 22 Feb 1809 in Richmond County, GA. Elizabeth was born 1793. She died 1817/1820 in Augusta, Richmond County, GA.

"GEORGIA MARRIAGES: 1801-1825" ELIZABETH E. H. ARRINGTON to THOMAS WATKINS, Feb 22, 1809

"GEORGIA MARRIAGES TO 1850" Arrington, Elizabeth E. H. to Watkins, Thomas 22 Feb 1809 Georgia, Richmond County

"WATKINS, THOMAS, and ARRINGTON, Miss Eliza Henry, daughter of late Henry Arrington, all of Richmond County, married 2/22/1809 by Hon. Judge Walker. MOT 3/6/1809"

Note: In the 1807 Land Lottery for Richmond County, "Henry and Elizabeth Arington (sic) orphans" are listed ?

Richmond County, Georgia Records, p. 316:
Archibald Hatcher appointed guardian of Polly and Elizabeth Arrington, daughters of late Henry Arrington, dec'd at the request of their mother, Mrs. Archibald Hatcher, September, 1795.

ARRINGTON CEMETERY:

COMMISSIONERS' SALE.

ON the first Tuesday in OCTOBER next, at the Lower Market House in the city of Augusta, within the usual hours of sale, pursuant to a decree of the Superior Court of Richmond county, granted at Chambers, on the 18th day of May last, the undersigned Commissioners will offer for sale the following property, to wit: All that tract or parcel of Land, on the Savannah River, in said county, adjoining lands of Turner Clanton and others, and containing three hundred and fifty-six (356) acres, more or lees, lately owned by George L. Twiggs, deceased, and known as "New Savannah;" also, one hundred and fifty one and a half (151-1/2) acres of Pine Land, attached thereto by the provisions of the will said deceased, and bounded by lands of Mrs. Sarah L. Twiggs, Turner Clanton, George H. Cogle and others, "The Arrington Cemetery," on said tract, with access to it by the heirs of the Arrington Family, as heretofore, will be reserved. ALSO, A Negro Slave named Abel, about twenty-five years old; well known in the city and country as a good carriage driver and house servant. Sold to effect a division between George T. and Anna Louisa Eve, to whom the same was bequeathed as tenants In common.

Terms on the day of sale.

WM. J. EVE,

JOHN C. CARMICHAEL,

JOSEPH A. EVE,

BENJAMIN HALL,

August 16, 1856. Commissioners.

Katie and Jerry DeLaigle found the Arrington/Arinton Cemetery, New Savannah (outside Augusta), GA August 15, 2004. Following are notes about the cemetery that Katie also found:

"NEW SAVANNAH CEMETERY. Work restoring the Old Cemetery, which consisted of building the wall with brick and repairing the tombs, was commenced on April 29th and completed May 3rd, 1935; work was done by S. R. Kelly and Son, under the supervision of Mrs. Thomas Barrett and other members of the Colonial Dames, Augusta, GA.

"The tablet placed in the north wall reading as follows:

Colonial Cemetery
Restored By The
Augusta Town Committee
Of The
Georgia Society
Of The
Colonial Dames of America
1935

"The Local Society of Colonial Dames objected to the Cemetery being named the "Colonial Cemetery", which was done by the Society in Savannah, Georgia. Mrs. James T. Bothwell, Jr., a member of the Local Society, made a trip to Savannah on May 9th, 1935 and brought the matter before the meeting of the Dames, showing them an old map (property of Morton L. Reese) and other information and it was decided to let the Dames name the Cemetery "New Savannah"; so the tablet was changed May 11th, 1935, to read as follows:

New Savannah Cemetery
1733
Restored By
The Augusta Committee
Of The
Georgia Society
Colonial Dames of America

Cemetery located about 200 yards from mouth of Butler's Creek. Plat showing the location of the cemetery, off Tobacco Road, near the "old landing" of the Savannah River is included in the papers about the cemetery. 113/14 graves are number on the plat, which was signed by Morton L. Reese.

"New Savannah Cemetery, Richmond County, Georgia, an Old Trading Post located on Old County Farm, about eight and one half (8 1/2) miles southeast of Augusta, GA; one mile (1) east of New Savannah Road, on the Old Tobacco Road; point where Butler's Creek empties into the Savannah River. Just when this Old Post was settled or abandoned cannot be given; the only marks left is the Cemetery, which was at one time was enclosed by a brick wall; only part of the wall on the north side now standing.

1. Mrs. Elizabeth Beal, wife of James Beal
Died 20th October, 1827. Age 55 years
2. Joseph Ware, Died 25th March, 1808 (6?)
Age 35 years
3. William Howell, Died 2nd November, 1803
Age 9 years
4. Sarah Ware, Died 30th September, 1802
Age 2 years
5. Britton Henry Ware, Died 3rd January, 1806
Age 6 years
6. Britton Dawson, Died 8th March, 1795
Age ___ years

7. Grace Arinton Howell, Died 25th August, 1810
Age 17 years

8. Grace Rowell, Born August 25th, 1759 and
Died November 16th, 1845

9. William Arinton, Died 2nd November, 1767
Age 32 years

Mrs. Sabra Dawson, Died 13th June, 1819
Age 88 years

Briggs Arinton, Died 8th August, 1770
Age 4 years

10. Sacred to the memory of
Mrs. Mary Walker,
Late Consort of
Maj. Gen. Valentine Walker,
who departed this life on the
24th day of January, 1818, in the
25th year of her age.

Amiable & Exemplary in her deportment, she had
and endeared herself to all. But as a wife & the mistress
of a family she was an example for her sex, mild,
gentle, dutiful & affectionate, she was the solace &
comfort of a fond husband & the prop of an aged
Mother & could the possessions & practice of all
the cardinal virtues have secured longevity the
deceased would have still have lived to cheer, animate
& to delight, but doth the cold hand of death has
prostrated her lovely form. Yes she has fallen in the
spring tide of her life & has fought the melancholy
lesion that we are not to fix our thoughts upon
this but upon another & a brighter world.

11. Charles Arinton, died 15th November, 1794
Age 21 years

Henry Arinton, Died 14th April, 1793
Age 29 years

12. Polly Bugg, Died 15th November, 1785
Age 23 years

13. William A. Bugg, Born October 9th, 1783,
and died October 11th, 1827

14. Mrs. Mary Hatcher, Died 2nd August, 1833
Age 69 years

Grave #14 is marked with a small marble slab in the ground, just at the foot of Mrs. Mary Walker's
grave; all of the other thirteen (13) graves are marked with large flat amble slabs, 'Box Tombs',
some walled up with brick, some with marble slabs, several with sandstone posts and others
resting level with the top of ground; most of the graves in very good condition; Cemetery grown
up with trees, bushes and brambles.

"Marker No. 9 has the name of three (3) and No. 11 has the name of two (2).

"Morton L. Reese made a visit to this old cemetery, March 12th, 1933, and found it in bad

condition; some one had torn down most of the brick that supported the marble slabs and several of the marble slabs were broken. A fish camp is located in the edge of the cemetery, and several others close by."

Notes of Katie DeLaigle, August, 2004: Mary married Valentine Walker.....you can read her name on the gravestone, but it is broken; a number of Hatcher's are buried there....it is very difficult to make out the engravings on the stones, they are so old and worn. Captain Archibald Hatcher is buried there also. It appears this was the old "Home Place"; it has the old oak trees, magnolia trees that are at least 200 years old, china berry trees and Spanish moss, and old cedars. It looks just like an old home place. The clay pit is there, I think perhaps it was excavated to build adjacent runways to the airport. Tobacco Road now dead ends at the airport; it used to run to the river; the railroad is just to the east. The home site is on a bluff overlooking the bend of the Savannah River and is known as "New Savannah". It presently has just one of the caretaker's properties that overlook the park. The levee road begins at part of Phinizy Swamp park and ends near Goodale Landing; apparently this is how they traveled to the city of Augusta. Also, there were steamboats up and down the Savannah at given times in history. New Savannah Cemetery is dated 1733.....and was restored by the Colonial Dames in 1935."

Name: Elizabeth Henry Arrington
Birth: 1793

Father: Henry Arrington b: BEF. 1764
Mother: Mary Robison b: ABT. 1764 in Barnwell Co, SC

Marriage 1 Thomas Watkins
Married: MAY 1809
Children
Robert Arrington Watkins b: AFT. 1809
Thomas Isaac Watkins b: AFT. 1809
Valentine Walker Watkins b: AFT. 1809
Martha Watkins b: BEF. 1814

It is through Elizabeth that we are related to the BLACK, DUNBAR, and HAMMOND families.

Notes from E. Richards on the 1820 Census:

"Mary S. Robinson Bugg Arrington Hatcher is listed on page 3, the same page where I found for sure a listing with the name of Thomas Watkins and living in Thomas' place of residence are two young men ages 16 to 26 but apparently over 18 and one man 26 to 45. No females at all. In Mary Hatcher's home were living 3 little boys under 10 and one little girl under 10 and one lady over 45. Now, you know that these four little children simply have to be her grandchildren, the children of her daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Maj Thomas Watkins whom, by the way, she named in her will."

- 4 M iii. **Maj. Robert (Jr.) WATKINS State Representative** was born 1789 in Richmond County, Augusta, GA. He died^{3,4} 1 Apr 1828 in Augusta, Richmond County, GA - aged 39.

Note: there is only one Robert Watkins, Richmond County, in the 1820 Census.

Historical collections of the Georgia chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution:
ROBERT WATKINS. May 3, 1824 - and MARY HATCHER, appointed guardians for Martha, Robert A., J. Thomas, and V. Walker WATKINS, minor orphans of Thomas WATKINS, deceased.

"WATKINS, MAJ. ROBERT, 39 years, died 4/1/1828 at Augusta, citizen of Richmond Co., and Representative in the State Legislature. GJ 4-14-1828; SP 4-7-1828; GR 4-7-1828; AC 4-4-1828; GC 4-13-1828; DG 4-9-1828"

In the 1820 CENSUS, Robert Watkins was living by himself (I'm thinking Helen Douglass may be dead by 1820)

page 11 of census

Robert Watkins 1 m 16-26 That's all, no wife.

Maj. Robt Watkins - son of Col. Robt - gr son of Thos. and Sally

GA State Legislature: Representatives:

Augusta Chronicle (Sept. 30/1822)

R. Watkins

J. Hutchinson

L. Harris

L. Watkins

E. Tarver

Augusta Chronicle, August 27, 1823

"We are authorized to announce MAJ. ROBERT WATKINS a candidate to represent this county in the House of Representatives, of the State Legislature. June 12."

Senate

Valentine WALKER (533 votes)

Geo. W. TWIGGS (194 votes)

Augusta Chronicle, October 4, 1823

"Monday next being the day of Election, we present the following list of candidates for the Legislature for this county, from which one Senator and three Representatives are to be chosen:

Senate: Gen. V. WALKER

Representatives: Col. J. Hutchinson, Gen. T. Glascock, ROBERT WATKINS, ESQ., Wm. W. Holt, Esq. Mr. Littleberry Bush."

Augusta Chronicle - October 8, 1823 - Election of Representatives:

Thomas Glascock (516 votes)

Robert Watkins (409 votes)

Joseph Hutchinson (408 votes)

Notes from Joy:

Found these funerals listed at St. Paul's Episcopal, but no burials were done there after 1818, I think. So these folks were likely buried somewhere other than Magnolia.

Mr. Thomas Watkins Sept 1823

Major Robert Watkins interred from Dr. Wilkins 1828

The following is a true transcription of the recorded Will of Robert Watkins, found in the Richmond County Courthouse, Probate Court, April 30, 2004 by Joy Wheeler Duncan and Virginia S. Mylius.

Note: Mary HATCHER witnessed the will. Mary was the mother of Elizabeth Arrington.

Last Will and Testament of ROBERT WATKINS
29th day of March, 1828

Georgia, Richmond County

I, ROBERT WATKINS, of the County and State aforesaid being weak of body but of sound mind and disposing memory do make this my last will and testament.

In the first place- It is my will and desire that all my just debts be paid without delay, and for this purpose I hereby vest my Executor hereafter to be named, with full and ample power and authority to sell and dispose of any or portion of my Estate real or personal without being under the necessity of applying to any court of Ordinary or any other Court f__ _____ to sell, and what my Executor shall so sell * hereby authorize and empower him to convey ----

Item - After my just debts are paid whatever remains of my Estate whether real or personal, evidence of debt or of whatever nature of kind (except the small memorials hereinafter devised) I give devise and bequeath to my affectionate nephew ISAAC THOMAS WATKINS, and his heirs and assigns forever to be held in Trust for him until his death, or he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years by my friend Robert WALTON.

To my brother CLAIBORNE ANDERSON WATKINS his heirs and assigns forever, I give and bequeath all my right title and interest in and to the Library belonging to the Estate of my Father which has remained undivided.

To my brother JOHN ROBERT WATKINS his heirs and assigns forever, I give and bequeath the History of the Indies by Rynal, my sword and epaulettes. The dirk formerly of Father's, and my sword cane.

Lastly, I constitute and appoint my friend ROBERT WALTON above noted of the City of Augusta, Executor of this my last will and Testament.

In _____ whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this twenty ninth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight.

Robert Watkins (L.S.)

Signed sealed and delivered
And published in our presence

Wm Smith
U. B. Clarke
Mary Hatcher

State of Georgia, Richmond County

Personally appeared William Smith who being duly sworn saith he was present and Robert Watkins sign, seal, and publish the foregoing as his last will and Testament, and that he was of sound mind and memory to the best of his knowledge and belief and that he along with U(Iric) B(ender) Clarke and Mary Hatcher signed the same as witnesses in the presence of the Testator and in ___ of each other.

William Smith

Sworn to in open Court this 7th day of April, 1828.

Robert married **Helen DOUGLASS**.

No children are named in Robert's Will.

The following is from an email by Eugenia Richards:

Robert Watkins first child was Thomas who married Miss Fox.

The 2nd child of Colo. W. and Hellen Douglas was Robert Watkins who never married.

The third child of Colo. Robert W. was George who married Mary Jane Tripp of Beaufort, South Carolina in 1821 and died in 1823 at Rosney, the old Homestead near Augusta, GA, the last residence of his father. One child of his marriage, Eliza Marguerite Watkins, 17 May 1824 in Savanna, GA and married to Oliver A. LaRoche of Augusta, GA in June 3, 1840. The latter died in Augusta, GA in 1864. Of this marriage eight children were born - all living except one - Augustus Bandry LaRoche, Eliza Oliver LaRoche, Mary Elizabeth LaRoche, Lula Jackson LaRoche, James Oliver LaRoche, Florence LaRoche, George LaRoche, Frank Isaac LaRoche. 1. Augustus married Mr. Hart a widow about 1872 in Savanna, GA - five children of this marriage - Joseph, Sara, Oliver and twins. 2. Eliza Oliver the second child of Oliver A. LaRoche and of Marguerite his wife was married in Savanna, GA to Theodore J. Elmore of Chicago, Illinois - no children. 3. Lula Jackson the fourth child of Oliver A. LaRoche and of Marguerite his wife married Mr. Joseph Kingsbury of Atlanta, GA in Decr. 1876 - one child Lula Kingsbury. 6. Florence, sixth child of Oliver A. LaRoche and of Marguerite his wife married Gerry Cabaniss of Forsyth, GA now of Savanna, GA. The children are Eldridge Gerry, Eliza Marguerite, Sally Lu and Oliver Haily Cabiness.

She also states that Claiborne was a child of Robert & Helen. The Claiborne who married Martha Gibson. We are not sure about this.

"John, the fifth child of Colo. Robert Watkins and Hellen Douglas married (nothing else written about him)"

- 5 F iv. **Elizabeth Claiborne WATKINS** was born 1792. She died a baby and was buried¹ 1 Jun 1793 in Rosney Plantation, GA.
- "Watkins, Elizabeth Claiborne (a baby), youngest child of Robert Watkins, esq of Rosney, d. dated unknown, funeral by Rev. Boyd at Rosney 6/1/1793. AC 6/1/1793"
- 6 F v. **Sarah Walton WATKINS** was born 1793 in Richmond County, Augusta, GA. She died¹ 13 Jul 1798 in Richmond County, GA.
- "Sarah Walton Watkins died in her 5th year."
- 7 M vi. **George Washington WATKINS** was born By Nov 1798 in Richmond County, Augusta, GA. He died 1823 in Rosney Plantation, Augusta, GA.

From the manuscript of Dr. Thomas A. Watkins, child of George W. Watkins, brother of Robert Watkins and another son of Thomas & Sally Walton Watkins. Written in 1882:

"The third child of Colo. Robert W. was George who married Mary Jane Fripp of Beaufort, South Carolina in 1821 and died in 1823 at Rosney, the old Homestead near Augusta, GA, the last residence of his father. One child of his marriage, Eliza Marguerite Watkins, 17 May 1824 in Savannah, GA and married to Oliver A. LaRoche of Augusta, GA in June 3, 1840. The latter died in Augusta, GA in 1864. Of this marriage eight children were born - all living except one - Augustus Bandry LaRoche, Eliza Oliver LaRoche, Mary Elizabeth LaRoche, Lula Jackson LaRoche, James Oliver LaRoche, Florence LaRoche, George LaRoche, Frank Isaac LaRoche. 1. Augustus married Mrs. Hart a widow about 1872 in Savannah, GA - five children of this marriage - Joseph, Sara, Oliver and twins. 2. Eliza Oliver the second child of Oliver A. LaRoche and of Marguerite his wife was married in Savannah, GA to Theodore J. Elmore of Chicago, Illinois - no children. 3. Lula Jackson the fourth child of Oliver A. LaRoche and of Marguerite his wife married Mr. Joseph Kingsbury of Atlanta, GA in Decr. 1876 - one child Lula Kingsbury. 6. Florence, sixth child of Oliver A. LaRoche and of Marguerite his wife married Gerry Cabaniss of Forsyth, GA now of Savannah, GA. The children are Eldridge Gerry, Eliza Marguerite, Sally Lu and Oliver Haily Cabiness."

"Descendants of William Claiborne" page 301, lists the issue of Robert Watkins and Elizabeth Martha Walton Watkins. GEORGE is noted as one of those children. However, there are no dates, either of birth or death. (see notes below)

War of 1812 Service Records

Index to the Compiled Military Service Records for the Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812 M602, 234 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration.

Name: GEORGE W WATKINS

Company: 3 REGIMENT (FEW'S), GEORGIA MILITIA.

Rank - Induction: SERGEANT

Rank - Discharge: SERGEANT

Roll Box: 220

Roll Exct: 602

RICHMOND HUSSARS, 1819

"As the country worked to overcome the economic woes that followed the War of 1812, Georgia humorists added considerable levity to the atmosphere. With a nod to the growing fad of street fighting, one such writer explained in great detail for his readers "Oculistus Dentypush" and the arts of "Gripology and Optigism or Biting and Goughing."

"EXCEPT for CPT. GEORGE W. WATKINS' company, 1818, the volunteer militia companies of Richmond County did not immediately reorganize after being mustered out of active service at the close of the War of 1812."

"History of the Georgia Militia 1783-1861" Chapter 3, RICHMOND HUSSARS, page 138-139

"The Troop of Horse in Richmond County continued in existence through the War of 1812, and commissions to the officers of that unit and troop notices are extant as late as 14 February 1818. In addition, a second troop of horse, light dragoons to be precise - organized in Richmond County during the War of 1812. On 12 September 1813 the governor had commissions issued to CPT Josiah G. Telfair, 1LT William F. Jackson, 1LT James C. Walker, and COR Charles Beall, as officers of the new troop, which was attached to the 3rd Squadron, 1st Regiment Cavalry, G.M. Allen Lovelace became cornet of this troop on 7 September 1814.

"As in most of the rest of the state at the time, all of the volunteer units of the 10th Regiment were defunct by 1819. On 17 April of 1819 MAJ Barnard Cantelous, commanding the 75th Battalion, wrote Governor William Rabun that on that same day an election was held for officers of the Augusta Volunteer Guards, an infantry company, "as all our volunteer companies have been for some time extinct."

"As the war of 1812 was about to break out the state issued requisitions for their quota of 1,000 men from the divisions of Twiggs and McIntosh. That May, in Richmond County, three companies commanded by Captains William Cumming, Gilbert Longstreet, and Peter Donaldson, volunteered for active service.

"Next, the 1st Regiment, Georgia Militia, commanded by LTC Joseph B. Chambers of Hancock County, was in federal service from October of 1812 to April of 1813. This command served at Point Petre on the St. Mary's River and on the St. John's River in East Florida. Among the twelve companies in this regiment was that of CPT William Cumming, the Augusta Independent Blues from the 10th Regiment, Richmond County."

VOLUME 1: "Campaigns and Generals", page 169

"The fighting in Florida and on the Big Ben over, and the public debates begun, the First Seminole War ended. The United States returned the Spanish forts Jackson had seized without authority.

On 22 February 1819 under the provisions of the Adams-Onis Treaty, Spain ceded all of Florida to the United States.

Georgia Units in Federal Service during the First Seminole War:

"On 15 February 1818 two regiments of Georgia Militia were organized for federal service and encamped on the south side of the Okmulgee River. Colonel Homer V. Milton of Jefferson County Commanded the "lower" regiment, and Col. John E. Little of Wilkes County commanded the "upper" regiment.

(Among the "lower" regiment, Georgia Militia, 15 Feb - 5 May, 1818)

"CPT. GEORGE W. WATKINS, 29 January-4 May, 1818 - Richmond County"

December, 1819 (numerous ads) SHERIFF'S SALES:

"On the first Tuesday in January next, at the Market house in the city of Augusta, between the usual hours, WILL BE SOLD....

325 acres of land, more or less, lying near the waters of McBean, Richmond County, adjoining Job. S. Burney, Jeremiah Harris and others - taken as the property of John Turman, to satisfy an execution in favor of ANDERSON WATKINS, Trustee of GEO. WALTON.

Also...The undivided interest or one fifth part of 1700 acres of land, more or less, bounded by Oswell Eve, Edward Rowel, and lands formerly belonging to the Estate of S. Jones. Known by the name of "Rosney". Levied upon as the property of GEO. W. WATKINS, to satisfy an execution in favor of Cosby Dickinson and others. W. LAMKIN, D.S. December 6th."

Augusta Chronicle, November 29, 1819

"The following negro slaves, To Wit: Magey, Hetty, Molly, Nanny, John and Sally, levied on the property of GEORGE W. WATKINS, to satisfy sundry executions in favor of Samuel B. Tarver and others against said Watkins, property pointed out by the defendant.

ALSO the Undivided interest of one-fifth part of 1780 acres of land, more or less, bounded by Oswell Eve, Edward Rowel, and lands formerly belonging to the Estate of S. Jones. Known by the name of ROSNEY. Levied upon as the property of ROBERT WATKINS, to satisfy an execution of favor of John McKinney, vs Robert Watkins. A. BUGG, Sh'ff, R.C. Nov 8.

Notes from Gena Richards: His father was Robert Watkins of Rosney. As I figure it, there were 5 heirs to that property in 1819 and George W. was one of them. Also, this gives you a birth date for George W. Watkins. To have his property levied on, he couldn't have been a minor in 1819 so he had to be born by Nov. of 1798 and perhaps sooner. Dr. Watkins said he was the third child of Col. Robt. Watkins which give or take one, is probably true. Dr. Watkins says he married Mary Jane Fripp in 1821 and that would be after he was in this financial trouble, had Eliza M. in 1822 and George died in 1823. The census records I sent by FAX show that Eliza was born at that time in SC so maybe Geo. W. and wife were living over there at that time. Dr. Watkins said, however, that Geo. died at Rosney. The part of S.C. where the Fripps lived was St. Helena's Parish - sometimes it says Island.

George married **Mary Jane FRIPP** on 1821.

1878 Letter of Eliza LaRoche, Mary Jane's granddaughter: "My mother's mother married again and dying soon after, left her only child (Eliza M. Watkins) to the care of her mother, Mrs. Fripp, who lived in Beaufort, S.C. "

The earliest mention I can find of a Fripp in the Augusta Chronicle was: June 10, 1863: "Mr. J.T.E. Fripp, who was founded in four places, in the recent raid of the Abolitionists on the Combahee, died on Saturday evening from his wounds. Mr. Fripp was a private in Captain Z. Davis's company of cavalry, the South Carolina Rangers, but was at his plantation on the Chochaw, on a sick furlough, at the time of the raid, and it will be remembered, was acting as guide for the troops stationed in that vicinity when he received his wounds."

- 8 F vii. **Martha WATKINS** was born 1800 in Richmond County, Augusta, GA. She died¹ May 1802 in Rosney Plantation, GA.

"Watkins, Martha, 2 yrs, only daughter, Col. Robert Watkins, died at Rosney (date torn off). AC 5/29/1791"

- 9 M viii. **Dr. Claiborne Anderson WATKINS** was born 1802 in Richmond County, Augusta, GA.

His guardian, after the death of his father, was his uncle, Dr. Anderson Watkins.

Jan., 1821: Returns of Dr. A. Watkins, guardian of Claiborne and John R. Watkins.

CLAIBORNE ANDERSON WATKINS NAMED IN THE WILL OF HIS BROTHER, ROBERT WATKINS, recorded Richmond County, GA, April 1828. (Along with Robert's brother, John Robert WATKINS and nephew Isaac Thomas WATKINS, and "friend" John WALTON)

Very roughly outlined, it appears that Claiborne A. Watkins' various residences were: born at Rosney, Richmond County, Ga., circa 1801/1802; ca. 1822-1824, at Philadelphia, U of Pa. Medical School; 1825-ca.-1830, Tallahassee, Fla; 1830-ca. 1833, Waynesboro, Burke Co., Ga.; 1833-1839, Twiggs Co., Ga.; 1839-1846, Savannah, Ga.; 1846-1847, New Orleans, La.; 1847-1849, Portsmouth, Norfolk Co., Va.; 1849-?, San Francisco, and/or northern California; died, when and where, unknown.

The following provided by Steve Wright, KY (2004)

"First, I must explain that I am not related to any of these families but finding out about Louis D. Watkins' relations has been something of a mania with me. I am researching to write a history of the 6th Kentucky Cavalry [Union] in the Civil War. And Col./Brig. Gen. Watkins was a very important part of that. There is a presentation sword that was given to Col. Watkins by the officers of the 6th Kentucky in late June of 1863. It is now in the holdings of the Frazier Arms Museum in Louisville, Kentucky. I had the honor to actually handle that weapon. It is a very beautiful one. The previous owner of the sword sold it to the museum for \$125,000.

Louis D. Watkins' military file yielded a letter which was written by his sister, Eva Young, in 1864, to President Lincoln on his behalf, to be promoted to brigadier general. But there was a lot of prejudice against him for being a southerner and also for not being a native Kentuckian. Eva Young gave her residence as being Brooklyn, New York. Recently, I learned of a website for Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn. It is a very beautiful place. On their website I found Eva Young and her husband, Jonathan Young and their infant child that died in 1866. The lot had been purchased by Douglas Gibson. Also, in that lot was the grave of Martha A. Watkins. This led me to believe that this might have been Louis and Eva's mother and that her maiden name might have been Gibson.

This led me to a Georgia Vital Statistic CD-Rom I had. On that I found the marriage of Dr. Claiborne A. Watkins and Martha Ann Gibson, in Camden County, Georgia, 17 January 1827. And as they say, the rest is history. I found your information on Ancestry.com and have subsequently found bits and pieces elsewhere.

I am going to attach a file on Louis D. Watkins and family which is a chronology I have put together. You will see that Louis was an assistant deputy United States Marshal in San Francisco in 1856. He was in Washington, DC at the outbreak of war and was a member of a militia regiment. Sen. Lafayette Foster of Connecticut got him an army commission as a lieutenant in the 14th U.S. Infantry which he turned down but he did accept one as 1st lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Cavalry [later changed to the 5th] At the battle of Gaines' Mills in the Peninsula campaign, he was severely wounded and trampled by horses in a cavalry charge there. When he died in New Orleans

in 1868, it was said that he died of injuries sustained at Gaines' Mills. One of the biggest proponents for promotion for Louis was Francis E. Spinner, Treasurer of the United States. Don't know why, though.

Col. Watkins first led his regiment, the 6th Kentucky Cavalry, and then the brigade in which the 6th was attached, with marked distinction. He is someone that I truly admire. I will be sending you a few pictures etc. as I have time.

I hope the above makes at least a little bit of sense to you. I would appreciate your sharing anything that you care to.

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,

Steve

PS: After a successful fight Col. Watkins had at Lafayette, Georgia on the 24th of June 1864, an Atlanta paper called him a renegade Georgian and rhetorically asked who would stop him. I am anxious to learn of his relatives who served in the Confederacy as well. It would be poignant to find his relationship with them.

"Georgia Journal 1809-1818", Volume 1, page 722

"Mount Zion Institution. The public examination and exhibition of this seminary commenced on Tuesday the 3rd of June (1817)...The honors of the Institution were awarded in the following manner: (I won't quote all the kids names)

1. In Latin, T. A. WATKINS
2-4 (etc - others)

"A. H. Chappell was admitted to the Junior standing in the Collegiate Department, G. E. Thomas, W. T. Colquitt, D. U. Lewis, and T. A. WATKINS to the Sophomore; James Hay, William Wilkins, Hugh Lawson, John Thomas, Lawson Bullock, and C. A. WATKINS to the Freshman standing. (signed) Francis Cummins, Hiram Storrs, Isaac Wales, Thomas Shepard, Board of Visitors."

From Steven Wright, February 2004:

I just found "Claiborne Watkins" in the 1825 Florida Territorial census for Leon County [Tallahassee]. All it has on him is that there was one white male over the age of 21, and no slaves.

George Walton is listed and it also says: "for a/c of W. and self." Not sure what that means. Under him it also lists 17 slaves and one free black.

Also, there is a list of purchasers of tracts of land in Leon County. There are three tracts listed for Dorothy Walton; 1E 1S 3; 1E 1S 4; and 1E 1S 5. I'll have to look later to see what all of that means."

From Steve Wright: In my Watkins/Gibson data file that I sent you I think it shows there in the footnotes for Claiborne A. Watkins that in 1830, he was in Waynesboro, Burke County, Georgia, the neighboring county with Richmond. (WATKIN, C. A. page 7-154) 1 male under five; 1 male 20-30; 1 female 20-30

"Georgia Marriages & Deaths 1820-1830", Warren & White, 1972, pg 133

"WATKINS, Dr. C. A. of Tallahassee, Fla., married GIBSON, Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Judge Gibson of St. Mary's (GA), 7-17-1827 at St. Mary's by Rev. A. Pratt. ACon 8-3-1827"

The Florida/Georgia Research Project
March-24 March 2004
Research at the Florida State Archives, by Steven Wright

Leon County, Florida Deed Book A

These deeds were on microfilm and unfortunately the pages could not be fitted into the printed pages-consequently I transcribed the pertinent information.

Page 71-C.A. Watkins to Robert W. Williams, in the City of Tallahassee, lots number 170, 171 and 174--\$600-20 December 1826

Note: Found nothing concerning the purchase of said lots. His ownership must have been from a pre-emption. Since he is not found among original purchases one may assume that he may have been an assignee of the actual purchaser.

Page 178-Claiborne A. Watkins to Thomas Speight, of Gadsden County, Florida. Watkins is indebted to Speight for 2 promissory notes [the aforementioned 320 acres given as security] \$181.43 & \$667.00, payable 1 January 1829-1 February 1828

Page 418-Claiborne A. Watkins to Anderson Watkins, of Augusta, Georgia. C.A. Watkins is indebted to Anderson Watkins--\$915.81-from 25 May 1827-[intended by these presents to secure loan with land from A-177]-1 August 1828

Page 465-Claiborne A. Watkins to [John] Douglas Gibson-both of Leon County, Florida-320 acres--\$3002.00-1 December 1828

Page 466-Claiborne A. Watkins to [John] Douglas Gibson-one slave called Poda-also, Kate, Brutus, Clarissa, and her child Louisa, and Lucy and her children [Lucy had 8 children]--\$4000.00-1 December 1828

Page 470-Claiborne A. Watkins to Elijah Walker-"Know all men whom it may concern, that whereas Douglas Gibson did on the third day of December eighteen hundred and twenty-eight, convey unto Davis Floyd, his executors, administrators and assigns, certain negroes therein named, one of which is named Jerry, as trustee and in trust for myself and heirs and whereas there was a judgment and execution in favor of William McKean [unsure of spelling] from October term, 1828, Leon County, in the hands of the sheriff against Claiborne A. Watkins, my husband, and the said conveyed property and negro Jerry being subject to the same and I having no means in the absence of the said Davis Floyd to effect the payment of the same, I do hereby in this case exercise a sound discretion on behalf of myself and _____ my own interests and also that of my heirs by borrowing the amount of the said execution to wit, one hundred and thirty dollars by bargaining and _____ by the way of mortgage the said negro _____ slave unto Elijah Walker of the State of Georgia for the sum of one hundred and thirty dollars to him and his heirs forever by these presents will forever warrant and forever defend. The condition of this obligation is such that if the said Martha Ann Watkins or her trustees or heirs doth pay or cause to be paid unto the said Elijah Walker, his heirs and assigns the aforesaid sum of one hundred and thirty dollars by the first day of December next, then _____ this obligation to be void _____ otherwise to stand and remain in full force and virtue. In witness thereof the said Martha Ann Watkins hath hereunto set her hand and seal in the presence of this 8th day of December 1828-Martha Ann Watkins
Witness-Charles C. Mills"

Note: Apparently Martha Ann Watkins borrowed money against the slave, Jerry, in her possession to pay for a judgment against her husband Dr. C.A. Watkins. Davis Floyd, mentioned in the deed was apparently a member of the Floyd family from St. Mary's, Georgia and close friends and associates of the Gibson family. Davis Floyd, at this time also held the position of Treasurer of the Territory of Florida.

Page 485-Receipt to Claiborne A. Watkins from Thomas Speight--\$800.00-part of consideration of mortgage-13 January 1829

Page 482-[John] Douglas Gibson to Davis Floyd-320 acres-2 December 1828

Note: I apologize that I did not make note of the amount of money involved.

1840 Census index for Chatham County, Georgia lists a C.A. Watkins

1845 Census Index, Claiborne is in the GEORGIA Census

The following letters were provided from the private files of Mrs. Eugenia Richards, descendant of Dr. Thomas A. Watkins. Thank you so much, Gena, for allowing us to see them~! (July, 2004)

Elizabeth Watkins, in Athens, GA, finishing a letter started by her mother. "Thomas" is Elizabeth's brother, in Courtland, AL:

"Brother Thomas,
1832

Oct. 17,

After writing the above, mother was taken very ill this morning and desired me to complete this letter. She bids me to inform you that it was her intention to have written you a long letter and nothing but indisposition has defeated her in that intention. She also wishes me to inform you that she thinks it quite unnecessary for you to relinquish to Clabourne Watkins, as all the other Legatees of age have declined doing so. He applied to her to relinquish for her wards but she says her prerogative does not extend so far. She wished you to know that the bill in equity did not pass at last September's court and expresses her intention of writing you on that subject as soon as she recovers."

The Savannah Daily Georgian
Thursday, February 28, 1839

page 2 col. 3

Dr. C.A. Watkins

Having settled in Savannah, with the view of practicing medicine in all its branches, respectfully tenders his professional services to the public, the citizens of Savannah, and the owners of its adjoining Plantations. Residence, east end of brick building occupied by Col. Myers. Reference may be had to the following gentlemen of this city, viz.: M.H. McAllister, Esq., Judge Jno. C. Nicoll, Col. W.W. Gordon, Maj. A. Porter, Col. A. Fannin, G.B. Lamar, Jos. Washburn, Col. Joseph W. Jackson, D. W.C. Daniell, Robert T. Webb, Thomas Holcombe.

The Savannah Daily Georgian
Thursday, April 22, 1841

page 1 col. 2

The committee of ten appointed at a meeting of the Young Men's Democratic Republican Association held on Tuesday Evening last, to select Delegates to the Convention in May next, report the following list of one hundred persons as a suitable representation of Chatham County on that occasion.

Note: Among the names was that of C.A. Watkins.

"Ginga: Amazing! Just now, I was reading a letter of Maj. Walton to someone who wrote asking questions about whether or not Dr. Watkins was kin to the Signer (this was after Dr. T.A. Watkins' death) and he wrote back some quotes in letters Dr. Watkins had saved which confirmed that. One of them he mentioned was a Nov. 1846 letter from Dr. Claiborne A. Watkins to Dr. Watkins written from New Orleans. So, I looked in my files and there it was!!

(The First Letter:)

To Dr. Thomas A. Watkins, Carrollton, Mississippi
26 Nov. New Orleans, 1846

Dear Thomas,

Your very kind and unexpected letter came to hand five minutes since. The "days of auld lang syne" of which you feelingly speak are remembered with pleasure - and though time and distance separate us, yet the ardent affection of my bosom for cherished friends and relations are not at all

damped but glow as fervently still as of yore.

Mrs. Gen. Dickerson informed me that you were in Mississippi but not where. She is a fine lady and your friend.

Be pleased to send my Mother's letter or bring it with you after Christmas. It is a choice family relict - and recalls a few short warm recollections of my Mother whose maternal love I enjoyed only to the age of seven years. Still, I remember her distinctly as fond, kind -- though very ill, having suffered a long time from Consumption.

I have been here 2 months only -- to find a home for my family -- an elegant, charming wife of wives, a grown daughter and son 19 years old. Evelina and Lewis D. Watkins. How would Carrollton suit me for the practice and health of my family? I should love to live by Thomas and become, in time, acquainted with Cousin George C. Watkins of Little Rock, Arkansas also. Then we would be happy once more. I am trying to obtain a berth in the army just now as Surgeon of a Volunteer Regiment. If I fail, New Orleans has no fixed attractions for me, if I can settle down and support my family in comfort. I now (have) good health but for 5 years past, I was very ill from gout of the rectum, bladder and viscera entailed by our good Uncle George Walton, Signer of the Declaration of Independence!

I am glad to learn that you are comfortable and happy. But hope you are still pious. I have been so for 5 years, Thomas! I am indeed a sinner saved by Grace alone! Glory be to God for Christ's sake! Amen and amen!

How are and what have become of my lovely cousins, your sisters whom so fondly loved and often caressed? How I should love to reside among them or see them once more. I have not seem Sims or Plumer from ignorance of their residence here.

I shall be pleased, nay happy to see you after Christmas at the Commercial Hotel, New Levee and Girod streets or at Mrs. Gen. Dickerson's, Canal Street, provided I go not to Mexico.

Excuse the dinner hour -- while I entertain for you the same high esteem and warm regard as ever.

Your affectionate cousin,

Claiborne A. Watkins

Note from Eugenia: I do not know who this Mrs. Gen. Dickerson is nor who Sims or Plumer can be. In 1846, Dr. Thomas Watkins would probably go from Carroll Co., MS to New Orleans by boat - going over to William's Landing (Greenwood) by carriage, wagon or horseback. Board a boat and go down the Yazoo to Vicksburg, then on to N.O. That's the way his cotton went.

(The Second Letter:)

1). In the letter Maj. Walton wrote to the person (Mr. George Nuckols Hobbs of Covington, KY) who was inquiring about Dr. Thos. A. Watkins' kinship to Geo. Walton the Signer, Maj. not only mentions the 1846 letter but also a letter written from Augusta, GA in 1832. That letter has been lost or sent elsewhere because I do not find it in my files. However, this is what Maj. Walton says about the 1832 letter: "We have a great many old family letters, among them one from Dr. Claiborne Anderson Watkins, written from Augusta, Ga. in 1832. He (C.A.W.) had a wife and two children at that time."

2). In a letter from Dr. Grey Dimond (who spearheaded "Forest Place") "Dear Eugenia",

"I have interesting information from the archives of the University of Pennsylvania"

"Another Watkins, Claiborne Watkins, also from Georgia, did matriculate in 1823-4 and 1824-5 (at Univ. of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine) and received an MD degree."

Gena's Note: Dr. Watkins attended the Univ. of PA's School of Medicine in 1822-23 but was not there at the same time as Claiborne. Steve might want to try the archives to see if the names Plumer or Plummer and Sims appear in their records for the years Dr. T.A. Watkins or Dr. C.A. Watkins were there.

3). When I went to retrieve the 1846 original letter (mostly I work with the copies because the originals are so fragile) to scan for Steve, I found this 1847 letter filed with the 1846 one - probably that's the way Dr. Thos. kept them. The letter was not mailed to Dr. Thos Watkins. Letters of that time usually did not have envelopes but were double sheets folded into a rectangle and sealed in some way. Dr. Thomas preferred red sealing wax. However, this letter was a double

sheet folded into a rectangle but instead of an address of a town and state, it simply says, "Dr. Thomas A. Watkins" with the word "Present" under the name. Now, this always means that the letter was hand carried or delivered. The body of the letter is not dated nor is a city or county given at the top of the page - which was the usual thing to do in those days. However, Dr. Thomas always wrote on the address part of every letter, over on the left hand side, the name of the writer of the letter and the date of the letter. I am using that date here. The inference is that Dr. C.A. Watkins is still in N.O. and Dr. Thos. Watkins has come down for his promised visit "after Christmas" and is staying somewhere in New Orleans so that Dr. C.A. could have someone hand him the letter.

Below is the copy of the letter. Tell Steve I am very good at reading old letters!

The following letter was written February, 1847 to Dr. Thomas A. Watkins on business in New Orleans from Dr. Claiborne Anderson Watkins, evidently also in NO

Dear Thomas,

I am really without a dollar here and cannot go North to my family without a hundred dollars. I can get along here till the weather will allow my going by collections but from the want of that sum, I shall be detained longer than I desire. Could you spare it, I will return it if I live and, if not, it will be given to one who will never forget the kindness. Another crop will so far overpay it, that its loss, if never returned, will be obliterated forever. However, with a heart like yours, so fond of those who have ever cherished your friendship and relationship with ardor and sincerity, it would be, but to be rendered cognizant of the necessity, to relieve it, if convenient.

I came here only with \$15.00 and infirm at that, to endeavor to support my distant family and pay my own way. I had been ill so long, that I determined to hazard everything to accomplish that laudable object. But this city is healthy and Evelina's future marriage changes the face of things altogether. Had I that sum, I would be content to stay here awhile till I collect some small sums due me and then visit yourself and Cousin George in a month.

If you have it not, your credit is good with your Commission Merchants who would be happy to oblige you. In fact, I never dreamed of asking you or cousin George either for that sum, or rather \$200 - till this morning, having been in hopes of making it myself, but as the chance is bad, I have no alternative -- and when I see him, as I hope to do - I would not hesitate to inform him of my situation and if available, he will advance another hundred. I may, however, when I have cash enough, return by Cuba. That sum, say \$100, will make any route optional, which is far the most consolatory.

And had you not of come to this City, I do not know what I should have done. Only I know this, that the Lord would provide me some resources only known to himself. And, Dear Cousin Thomas, I should often despair, did I not have unbounded Faith in His Grace and goodness. "He is my shepherd and I shall not want. He spreadeth a table for me in the midst of strangers -- aye, enemies." 23rd Psalm "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Read this beautiful 23rd Psalm.

And Thomas, after we two separate in the West, we may never meet again on earth. Let us then in the language of Uncle Isaac to your beloved Father "Live in such a way as the devoted and sincere followers of our blessed Lord and Redeemer, the meek and lowly Jesus, "that we shall die happy" - blessed of the Lord, an example of piety to our families, our neighbours, friends and enemies, and meet in heaven never to part again, but together with all the Redeemed of Earth and our beloved wives and children and angels, myriads, sing His praises forever more! Amen and amen!

Oh, my beloved Cousin - Repent while you can. Go now and pray in His name alone until He who does forgive sins, for I know it, bids you go in peace and sin no more!" I am convinced that if you will read the 3rd chapter of John's gospel and pray over the 3rd verse for 3 days to yourself in your own home, the same gracious God who forgave me, for His Son's sake, will pardon and regenerate your soul. Then you too, will live anew in the Spirit and realize for yourself the Christian's acceptance with God and be too His adopted child. Then you too would be a happy man and have no fear of death but would welcome any moment as the Lord's will, as a passport to His arms. Oh, that I could hear you say, "Anderson, I am a sinner saved by Grace alone!" Jesus died for me! He is my Father, too. His Spirit bears witness with my spirit that He is my Father and I am His child -- whereby I cry, Abba, Father! Memento Mori!
C. A. W.

Notes from Gena: The "Cousin George" is Judge George Claiborne Watkins, son of Isaac

Watkins who was the youngest brother of Dr. Thos. A. Watkins' father George. So, Isaac Watkins was Dr. Thos. Watkins' uncle and his son Geo. Claiborne Watkins was Dr. Thos Watkins' cousin. Uncle Isaac and his children lived in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Note number 2: Notice that Dr. C.A. Watkins calls himself Anderson in the last paragraph. He may be listed thus in some of the places Steve has looked and not found him.

Note number 3: John 3: 3 "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Note number 4: His wife and children appear never to have been with Dr. Claiborne Anderson Watkins in New Orleans but are in the "North". Has Steve found out from military records where Young was in 1847-48 so that Evalina could have met him? Evidently the marriage was planned and/or accomplished after Dr. C.A. Watkins left for N.O. Where is the "North" that the family was living in?

Email from Steven Wright, March, 2004:

" I believe that I have found something of interest. From San Francisco Genealogy--"Argonauts of California-Vessels and Their Passengers That Sailed From Various Ports to California in 1849." page 489.....

"Schooner Viola, from Norfolk, March 11th: H.P. Woods, H.F. Louden, C. Herrington, Jas. Paul, Horatio Paul, Owen Paul, Mr. Mitchell, Chas. Murphy, DR. C.A. WATKINS, Dr. W. Cormick."

James Edmund Sanders wrote "Early Settlers of Alabama," which he began in 1880. He stated the following about some of his classmates at The University of Georgia (then Franklin College) which he stated was the Southern Salamanco, and light-hearted students caracoled gaily to and from its learned shrine." (There were no railways.) "Rev. Moses Waddell was its president in 1819, another family Presbyterian educator. The influence of Princeton College was potent at this time in the South, throwing its searchlight of knowledge far and near. To this College came young Saunders, in 1822, the spell of old Harpeth Academy still upon him, and so slight, so boyish, his comrades dubbed him "Slim Jimmy."

Other college mates were Alfred Vernon Scott, Judge Wyley W. Mason, Eugene A. Nisbet, M.C., Iverson L. Harris, Thos. J. Merriwether, James Scott, James S. Sims, M.D., CLAIBORNE A. WATKINS, M.D., Judge Augustus B. Longstreet, Judge Joseph Lumpkin, governor George W. Crawford, Thos. A. Matthews, M.D. Hines Holt, M.C. Wm. H. Crawford, U.S. Senator, James Rembert, Abraham Walker, Judge John A. Campbell of New Orleans, Daniel Chanlder of Mobile, Judge Robert Dougherty of Alabama, Dr. Paul F. Eve of Nashville, Tenn., Wm. E. Jones M.C., Richard and James Meriwether, M.C., Wm. H. Reynolds, and other illustrious names, constellations no mists may yet obscure.

Many of these formed life-long friendships with young Saunders. None now survive; only a few faded letters yet remain to attest the lost fragrance of their early association. Alabama has embalmed the names of some of these in "amber immortalization" and now "silent they rest in solemn salvatory."

Claiborne married **Martha Ann GIBSON**, daughter of William GIBSON and Mary Medeleine FATIO, on 17 Jan 1827 in St. Mary's, Camden, GA. Martha was born 1811 in probably In Camden, GA. She died 28 Sep 1861 in New York City, NY and was buried in Green Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY.

[I do not include many of my notes on Martha Gibson out of respect for Steven Wright and the book he is writing.](#)

Notes believed to have been written by Susan Fatio L'Engle. [1808-1895] Thought to have been written circa 1880

Continuation of the Gibson Family

Louis' [Gibson's] wife, Mrs. Almira Gibson still lives [the year 1880 penciled in here] in California at the Occidental hotel, San Francisco. [John] Douglas [Gibson] and his wife are both

Named in his brother, Robert WATKINS Will, recorded April 1828, Richmond County, GA...along with Robert's brother Claiborne Anderson WATKINS and nephew Isaac Thomas WATKINS, and friend Robert WALTON.

December 18, 1812: Will be Hired, at the market house in this City (Augusta, GA) on Friday the 1st day of January next, for 12 months: the Negroes belonging to Thomas Walton, Claiborne Al Watkins, and John R. Watkins, minors. The persons who have hired those negroes, the present year, are requested to direct them to be at the market house at an early hour on the day of hiring well clothed according to contract. Anderson WATKINS, Guardian." (note, it does say Thomas WALTON, not Thomas Watkins)

Jan., 1821: Returns of Dr. A. Watkins, guardian of Claiborne and John R. Watkins.

Jan., 1821: page 70: John R. Watkins chooses his brother Thos. Watkins, Guardian.

April 10, 1821: page 75: John R. Watkins recants his choice of Thomas Watkins, guardian, and returns to the protection of his uncle, Anderson Watkins.

July 1, 1830, there was a letter waiting John R. Watkins at the post office in Augusta.

Note: In Historical Collections of the John Habersham Chapter D.A.R., it is stated that John (son of Col. Robert Watkins) "never married". We want to assume this is true, as we can find nothing further about John Robert, and also as other bits of information are correct, such as son Robert marrying Helen Douglass, and son Claiborne marrying Miss Gibson. However, it also states that Robert and Elizabeth Walton Watkins' daughter Martha married Charles DeLaigle". That is not correct. It was Robert's son Thomas who was the father of Martha.

Florida Land Records: John R. Watkins, July 15, 1826, document 707, 79.81 acres; document 708, 79.81 acres; 709, 79.81 acres.

The following is provided by Steven Wright, who found this information, and was kind enough to share it with us:

Leon County, Florida Superior Court Order Book

John R. Watkins-was tried and convicted of the murder of Jesse Butler. He shot Butler in Tallahassee, 30 August 1827. At a later date the conviction was overturned and the prisoner released. There was a David Butler who operated a hotel in Tallahassee and may have been related to the victim.

John R. Watkins, late of Leon County, yeoman, who stands indicted for murder was led to the bar in custody of the marshal of the district; thereof arraigned and pleaded not guilty to the indictment and for his trial put himself upon the county and the attorney for the territory replied generally _____ And thereupon the said John R. Watkins is remanded to jail-15 April 1828

John R. Watkins, late of Leon County yeoman who stands indicted for murder was again led to the bar in custody of the marshal of the district. And the jurors elected for the trial on yesterday appeared in court and William E. Cooksey and Samuel Stewart, two of said jurors so elected, being challenged for cause by the district attorney were discharged and thereupon the others, Daniel O'Cane, Abram Levison, George Fisher, Martin Gamblin, James Oliver, James Kennan, together with James W. Dalney, Archibald McPherson, Andrew Bunch, George Hooks, Dennis Collins, and John McAfee, this day elected and tried were sworn as a jury for the trial of the said John R. Watkins upon the indictment aforesaid. And upon their oath do say "we of the jury find John R. Watkins guilty of murder and sentence him to be hanged by the neck until dead." And thereupon he is remanded to jail-17 April 1828

John R. Watkins, late of Leon County, yeoman, who stands indicted of murder was again led to the bar in custody of the marshal of the district and thereupon the matter of said _____ on the prisoners plea of Autrefois convict. The district attorney demures thereto, and the prisoner's joinder in demurer being fully considered, the court delivered the following opinion-Whereupon

proclamation being made as the manner is and nothing further appearing or being alleged against him, it is ordered that the said John R. Watkins be discharged from his imprisonment and that he go hence without day-17 October 1828

* * * * *

Some additional research sent to me by Ginga

"...The same grand jury that charged Ben [a slave] with murder brought an indictment at the same time, 3 October 1827, charging John R. Watkins with the murder of Jesse Butler in July 1827 [actually, 30th of August]. Watkins lived on a small _____ acreage near the present interchange of U.S. 27 and Interstate 10. In a community called Milltown, he had shot Butler in the arm during an argument, and the victim lingered several days before he died. The incident created something of a stir around Tallahassee, one account in verse suggesting that he intended to shoot a second victim, Mahalah: 'She may be thankful she did run./The other load 'twas in the gun.' Watkins was convicted on 17 April 1828 and was sentenced to be hanged, but then the judicial machinery moved in a way that suggests that the equal protection of the law was somewhat more equal in the case of a free, white 'yeoman' than in that of a defendant who, although a black slave, was supposed under the law to enjoy the same right to life, if not liberty. Watkins's counsel filed a motion to quash the indictment, it not having been signed by the foreman of the grand jury, and this motion was granted. After another indictment but before another scheduled trial, counsel pleaded that the defendant, having once been convicted of a crime, could not be placed in second jeopardy ("autrefois convict"). Judge Randall agreed and allowed Watkins to go free. He left Florida."

Augusta Chronicle, July 17, 1830, a letter was awaiting John R. Watkins at the post office in Augusta.

Email from Eugenia Richards: Dear Ginga: I keep thinking about what Eliza Laroche wrote Dr. Watkins about her mother's memories of John Watkins and I think I know where Mrs. Eliza M. Watkins Laroche got in contact with John --- and with Louis as well.

Remember that we had noticed that Claborne A. Watkins was in Screven Co., GA in 1840 and had an extra 30 to 40 year old male living in his household at that time. I think that might, just might be John R. Watkins and guess what? Two names down from Claborne is James A. Laroche who was Oliver A. LaRoche's just a bit younger brother. Also in screven Co. GA just a few pages over is Isaac D. La Roche (listed as D LaRoche) and he was an older brother of Oliver's and James A's. Oliver and Eliza M. Watkins (daughter of George W. Watkins and the Fripp girl) were married in 1840 so they must have been around somewhere. The area where Claiborne and the LaRoches were living was called - in Isaac's case the City of Savannah and - in James A. and Claiborne's case, Liberty Ward, Savannah District. Gena

1878 Letter of Eliza LaRoche about her mother's (Eliza Marguerite Watkins LaRoche) uncle: "My mother often speaks of her Uncle John Watkins who showed her much affection in her orphaned childhood."

We have no further record of John Robert.

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Appendix A - Sources

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- ¹ M. B. Warren - 1968, "Georgia Marriages and Deaths 1763 to 1820".
 - ² Jeanette Holland Austin, "Georgia Obituaries 1740-1935", 1993.
 - ³ Warren & White - 1972, "*Georgia Marriages & Deaths 1820-1830*".
 - ⁴ Joseph T. Maddox - 1982, "*Information on Some Georgia Pioneers*".

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